

Inflation rate at lowest point since April, 1973

Inflation fell last month to 7.4 per cent on a six-month basis—the lowest since April, 1973. But it is still above single figures in a year-on-year comparison. The stronger pound, lower commodity prices and moderate pay settlements have all contributed to the improved economic climate.

Earnings rises still below 15pc forecast

Single-figure inflation by the end of the year is now almost certain after another substantial drop in Britain's inflation rate last month. The Government has welcomed the latest in a series of good inflation figures, which encourage unions to moderate their wage claims. The standard of living is rising rapidly as earnings increase outpace rises in the cost of living. A rise in prices of just 3p in the pound in December brought Britain's year-on-year inflation rate down from 15.0 per cent in November to 12.1 last month. In a six-monthly comparison inflation has already dropped to single figures but comparing December 1977 with December 1976 it is still above single figures. Officials are also growing more optimistic about the future trend of prices. Mr. Atterley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said yesterday that December was "the sixth month in succession during which prices rose by 0.5 per cent or less." "Single-figure inflation will be achieved within the next few months, and if we remain resolute in our present policies, will continue through 1978 and into 1979." A rising pound, lower world commodity prices, cheaper mortgages and hopes of a stronger-than-expected output for 1977 have all contributed to the cheer. Until recently officials were most certain that there would be an upturn in the annual rate of inflation this autumn, after a fall to between 6 and 7 per cent by the summer. Pay settlements in the present round are believed to be lower than in the last round, and the rise in earnings will be the next few months will be the key to continuing success in the inflation fight. Price rises over the past six months, excluding seasonal adjustments, are usually thought to be the best measure of inflationary trends. December's cost-of-living increase on this basis was 7.4 per cent at an annual rate. This is the lowest figure since April 1973 for the underlying rate of inflation. The six-monthly rate of increase in the cost of living has fallen for eight successive months, from the April 1977 peak of 20 per cent. Inflation measured on the year-on-year basis has dropped for six months in a row, from a level of 17.6 per cent last July. There is likely to be another big improvement in the year-on-year rate when the figures for this month are published. Last January there was a big 21 per cent price rise, nearly half of which was due to Mr. Healey's Budget of December, 1976. A fall in coffee prices this month is expected, which will nearly outweigh the current 15 per cent increase in rail fares. Another penny on a pint of milk will push up prices by about one-fifth per cent in January and dearer tobacco will also increase the retail price index. But cheaper mortgages will show in the February index when the latest 1 per cent cut comes into effect. December's rise in the cost of living index was due to increases in the prices of cars, bread and eggs, mail rises in the cost of a number of household items, and higher telephone charges as the rebate scheme is phased out. From now on the monthly rate of inflation is unlikely to increase in the price of cars, bread and eggs, mail rises in the cost of a number of household items, and higher telephone charges as the rebate scheme is phased out. From now on the monthly rate of inflation is unlikely to increase in the price of cars, bread and eggs, mail rises in the cost of a number of household items, and higher telephone charges as the rebate scheme is phased out.



Mrs Thatcher gets a kiss from Mr Lew Pickett, a stallholder, in Petticoat Lane, when she visited the East End of London yesterday. (Major election role for Mr Heath doubted, page 3.)

Mr Steel expects to win vote on pact

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said last night that he thought today's special Liberal assembly in Blackpool would vote for the continuation of the pact with the Labour Party. "I get soundings from the party and I think that is the prevailing view," he said. "But it is not a foregone conclusion by any means. There are very strong views on both sides," he said on the BBC programme *Newswatch*. Mr Steel rejected a suggestion that today's debate was about the leadership. But he agreed that the party decided to change its tactical approach to the election "it would be wise to do it under a different leader." He added: "The agreement was mine. The Government has not broken it so I do not see why we should break it." Our Political Correspondent writes: Mr Steel was reported yesterday to be feeling a sense of outrage at a suggestion that he had been the recipient of leaks about the March Budget's contents from Mr Healey, Chancellor of the Exchequer. According to a report in yesterday's *Daily Express* he had been told that the standard rate of income tax was to be reduced from 34 per cent to less than 30 per cent, and that he would be able to hint at the special Liberal assembly in Blackpool that Liberal oppositionists to the Government were partly responsible for bringing that kind of benefit to taxpayers. But Mr Steel said on the *Newswatch* programme that he had not been told of any such leaks. "I doubt whether the Chancellor of the Exchequer himself has decided on the figures yet," he said.

Government defeat possible over green pound

The Government amendment to the House of Commons on Monday that the House should recognize the special difficulties of the producers of pigmeat and beef, approved the action of her Majesty's Government in requesting the Commission to propose the immediate devaluation of the green pound by 5 per cent as part of a move, in the course of 1978, to increase the net income of such producers by 10 per cent, an amount which corresponds to the guideline figure in the Government's income policy. The amendment, last night rejected by a vote of 107 to 102, was a last-minute effort to avert a vote on the Government's proposal to devalue the green pound by 5 per cent. The amendment was introduced by Mr. Silkin, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, who had announced that the Government had asked the EEC Commission to propose a 5 per cent devaluation of the green pound from a date yet to be fixed. The Government amendment seeks approval for that figure. The House of Commons has been debating the green pound since it was introduced by the Government in the Commons debate on agriculture on Monday. The Conservatives say their motion is as much in the interests of the consumer as of the livestock industry.

Unmanned spaceship sent to link up with Salyut

Moscow, Jan 20.—An unmanned Soviet spacecraft went into orbit today carrying supplies and equipment for two cosmonauts aboard the Progress 1, which blasted off from the Baikonur space station in central Asia, was opening the era of automatic space cargo ships. The craft, which will lock on to one end of the 19-ton space laboratory, resembles an earlier unmanned Soyuz vehicle, which spent almost three months docked with the Salyut 4 station two years ago. A landing capsule from the Soyuz later parachuted back to Soviet territory. Reuter.

Solid vote by Labour gets Acas Bill second reading

By Hugh Noyes. Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster. A Labour MPs' private members' Bill to repair some of the breaches in industrial conciliation legislation shown up by the Grunwick dispute has a second reading in the Commons yesterday by 256 votes to 242, a majority of 14, in spite of bitter resistance from both front and backbench Tories. The Bill was viewed as a test of strength between the Government and Opposition in spite of its private member's status, with ministers flocking into the division lobbies to show a solidarity with their rank and file that is unusual for such a measure. Tory leaders were also out in strength, and one House of Commons official of long standing remarked that never before had he seen the members' and ministerial car parks so full on a Friday. The Employment Protection Bill, introduced by Mr Edward Fletcher, MP for Darlington, was given strong support by the Government, because, as Mr Booth, Secretary for Employment, explained, there was a danger that pressure on parliamentary time might make it impossible to plug the loopholes until the situation had become very worse. The main purpose of the Bill is to reduce the scope an employer has in refusing to cooperate with the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service (Acas). In the Grunwick dispute Mr George Ward succeeded in having an Acas report declared invalid because the service was unable to consult all the workers involved. Mr Fletcher said yesterday that Acas had been unable to do this, and that it was the duty of the House to make matters worse. Conservatives, headed by Mr. Prior, the spokesman on employment, and his deputy Mr. Hayhoe, argued that the Bill would only make matters worse. Mr Hayhoe told the House that it reduced the rights of individual workers, increased the power and privilege of certain trade unions, jeopardized and perhaps undermined the independence of Acas, and damaged its ability to consult and arbitrate impartially. The Bill, he went on, would increase hostility among small businesses and the self-employed. Mr Hayhoe said that this was not a debate about Grunwick and even if it were, special cases made bad law. The Bill was not even mentioned in that it gave trade unions recognition rights where employers did not have them. Mr Hayhoe told the House that those Labour MPs who a few years ago were so anxious to keep the law out of industrial relations were now trying to introduce it because it suited them to do so. Mr Booth, on the other hand, maintained the importance of showing that it was not possible for employers to frustrate Acas's attempts to carry out the duties given to it by the House of Commons, to sound the opinions of employees. Parliamentary report, page 21.

Mr marshal shot he seizes Karachi hijacker

Karachi, Saturday morning.—A gunman who hijacked a Pan Am aircraft with 42 people aboard was overpowered by police here. The hijacker, who had been ordered to blow up the aircraft if his demands for a film were not met, was seized. Air Marshal Nur Khan, former head of the Pakistan Air Force, had been seen inside the aircraft at 1.15 in the morning. The hijacker, who was shot in the hip, was one of the 42 people aboard the aircraft, hijacked a flight from Sukkur, 300 miles north of Karachi, and was allowed to leave by the crew. Air Marshal Khan, former head of the Pakistan Air Force, had been seen inside the aircraft at 1.15 in the morning. The hijacker, who was shot in the hip, was one of the 42 people aboard the aircraft, hijacked a flight from Sukkur, 300 miles north of Karachi, and was allowed to leave by the crew.

Dogs fail to find bodies in frozen ground

From Ronald Faux, Edinburgh. The search continued in Scotland yesterday for two bodies believed to be buried in a snow-covered ground near Braco, Tayside, and in the grounds of Kirkcubbin House, near Dundee, the home of Lady Hudson, widow of Sir Austin Hudson. As darkness fell, the search was called off without result, and it will be resumed today. The police hunt started on Monday evening after the almost naked body of a man was found in the snow at Braco. The body was identified as that of a man who had been seen in the area of North Berwick. He was identified as Donald Thomson Hall, aged 37, of no fixed address. Two men were arrested and one of them later became ill and is in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary. Police said yesterday that his condition was quite satisfactory and he was likely to be released from hospital very soon. He would appear in court at the earliest possible date but no indication was given of the charge. At a heated press conference in Edinburgh yesterday journalists pressed one of the officers leading the investigation, Chief Supt George Macpherson, head of the Lothian and Borders CID, for more information on the murder hunt. Journalists from England had complained that more details were being released in London compared with the relatively sparse information being provided in Scotland. For example, the body found near Inverness on Wednesday was identified three days ago to the Press Association by police contacts in London as that of Mr Walter Scott-Elliot.

Leyland raise car prices by 6.45pc

Leyland Cars has announced price increases averaging 6.45 per cent from Monday. However, existing models—except for two months—will be sold at the old prices. Page 17

Rhodesian amnesty for guerrillas

Rhodesia announced a "safe return programme" for black nationalist guerrillas who wish "to return in peace" to their homes. The programme, which was not immediately clear whether they would face imprisonment or be guilty of terrorist acts. Page 4

Wan Hunter reife Polish tips order

Wan Hunter shipyards have lost the winning orders for four Polish bulk carriers. British shipbuilders located the orders to Goran and his Dock on the Tees last night, talks aimed at settling the dispute broke down. It originally intended to build a ship, part of a £115m deal, but as Swan Hunter. An outburst of dispute led to the relocation of the other three vessels. Page 17

Carter growth plan put to Congress

President Carter has outlined to Congress measures designed to ensure real economic growth of almost 5 per cent in the next several years, reduce inflation and allow America to help to improve the international economic climate. Government advisers admit that the programme will do well to cut inflation by as much as 0.5 per cent a year. Page 17

Value of virginity

An Athens court awarded £4,650 to the parents of a girl of 16 for the loss of her virginity. It is estimated that this would be fair compensation for her future husband. Page 4

Slow play in Test

Pakistan scored 176 runs in five hours and a quarter to take the first innings total to 230 for five—36 behind England in the Test. Page 6

**He's trained.
He's good.
He's blind.**

You're looking at Mike Brace. Age 26, and a winner. Judo green belt. Hot at skiing, fencing, canoeing, football, ice-skating, life saving. A cross-country skier contestant for Britain in the 1976 Winter Olympics for the Disabled. And blind since he was ten. How do you get to be that good when you're blind?

Largely it's your own drive and determination. And partly it's training. Mike is the living proof that rehabilitation and training for the blind really works.

Training the blind to live and work like you and me is the life work of the RNIB. Please help us to carry on with it through your legacies and donations.

RNIB
ROYAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE
FOR THE BLIND

224 GREAT PORTLAND STREET, LONDON W1N 6AA

Under the Finance Act 1975, bequests to charities up to a total of £100,000 are exempt from Capital Transfer Tax. Registered in accordance with the National Assistance Act 1948.

Wan Hunter
reife Polish
tips order

Wan Hunter shipyards have lost the winning orders for four Polish bulk carriers. British shipbuilders located the orders to Goran and his Dock on the Tees last night, talks aimed at settling the dispute broke down. It originally intended to build a ship, part of a £115m deal, but as Swan Hunter. An outburst of dispute led to the relocation of the other three vessels. Page 17

HOME NEWS

Angry miners' leaders meet after board 'explains' incentives

From Tim Jones

South Wales miners' leaders yesterday decided to convene their executive for a special meeting today after allegations of "gross interference" by the National Coal Board in their ballot on a pit productivity scheme.

Mr George Rees, area general secretary of the National Union of Mineworkers, said he had even considered abandoning the ballot, which is to determine whether the South Wales men continue alone in their opposition to incentive schemes.

Mr Rees and other union leaders are annoyed that the coal board has made a leaflet explaining the scheme available at the pits. A board official, however, said that the leaflet differs only in small detail from an explanation published in *Miner*, the union newspaper, before the nationwide ballot last October.

In that ballot the South Wales men overwhelmingly rejected a pit-based productivity scheme on the advice of some of their leaders that it would reduce underground safety and hasten the closure of uneconomic pits. There are

signs, however, that with acceptance in other areas, particularly Yorkshire, the resolve of some of the men is beginning to crumble.

The latest dispute will ensure that the union intensifies its propaganda efforts against acceptance in the ballot.

Earlier yesterday the miners had been given an overt warning that jobs could be lost in the area if they did not change their minds. Mr Philip Weekes, the board's area director, said: "I think it is one of the most crucial weeks in the history of the South Wales coalfield. If productivity and production continue to decline, then my ability to attract capital investment declines."

The coalfield is losing up to £900,000 a week. Mr Weekes said: "I have to attract investment to South Wales to maintain job opportunities and stability. If the miners rejected an incentive scheme, I would be fighting the coalfields where productivity was increasing because of the scheme and would probably lose. This is the critical factor: more coal, more wages and more investment."

Deputy is appointed new Irish chief of police

From Our Correspondent

Dublin. Mr Patrick McLaughlin, Assistant Commissioner of the Irish Republic's police force, the Garda Síochána, was yesterday appointed Commissioner to replace Mr Edmund Garvey, who was dismissed by the Fianna Fáil Government on Thursday.

The appointment was made after the Irish cabinet met to discuss the dismissal of Mr Garvey. He was said yesterday to be seeking legal advice, and may bring an unfair dismissal case against the government.

Mr Garrett Fitzgerald, the Fine Gael leader, and Mr Frank Cluskey, the Labour Party leader, have asked the Government to explain the dismissal.

There was speculation in Dublin yesterday about the

Government's action. Mr Garvey was given only two hours to resign.

Mr Garvey was a controversial figure and a disciplinarian. He was not popular with the Garda representative body, the police equivalent of a trade union, and it is known that the Government was more hostile to him than would normally be the case with an Opposition appointee.

He was recently criticised for his handling of the fingerprint affair, which concerned the faulty identification of prints during investigations into the murder of the British Ambassador, Mr Christopher Ewart-Biggs, in July 1976.

Allegations of police brutality, which Mr Garvey refused to comment on, are also believed to have been a consideration in the dismissal.

Press charter outline is expected next week

By Our Political Correspondent

An indication from the Government of the progress that has been made in devising a press charter, after the failure of the Government and representatives of the press to reach agreement, is expected in the House of Lords on Thursday.

The peers are debating a motion from Lord Wigoder, the Liberal peer, calling attention to the importance of a free, diverse, responsible and thriving press, which makes reference to the recommendations of the Royal Commission on the Press.

Central to the argument is the right of editors to decide on the content of newspapers with-

out outside interference. It is expected that Lord Oram, Lord in Waiting, replying for the Government, will indicate the general lines of the press charter which the Government intends to bring to Parliament for approval under the Labour Relations (Amendment) Act, 1976.

So far Lord Goodman, who played a leading role in the long debates on the press charter, has not put his name on the speakers' list, but he is likely to make his contribution. Other speakers will include Lord Hartwell, Editor-in-Chief of *The Daily Telegraph*, Lord Hailsham, Lord Jacobson, Lord Hailsham, a member of the royal commission, Lord Ritchie-Calder, Lord Redcliffe and Lord Orr-Ewing.

Threat from Equity to amateur singers

By Martin Huckerby

Professional singers have replaced the amateur Philharmonia Chorus for a performance of Verdi's *Requiem* at the Albert Hall last month, because the chorus refused to accept the requirements of Equity, the professional singers' union.

The incident is one symptom of a growing dispute that threatens to cause havoc in choral singing. Equity is determined to halt what it regards as the encroachment of amateurs on the work of professional singers, and its efforts have caused difficulties with several amateur choruses.

For the Verdi *Requiem*, Riccardo Muti, the principal conductor of the Philharmonia Orchestra, wanted a stiffening of professional singers with the Philharmonia Chorus for the concert on February 14 and a subsequent recording of the work.

Equity demanded separate billing for its members, so that publicity, programmes and record labels would have said "Philharmonia Chorus and Amateurs Singers".

The singing of amateur choruses by professionals, especially for recordings, is not uncommon, but it is relatively rare for the Philharmonia Chorus, one of the finest choruses in Europe.

Mr Charles Spencer, chairman of the chorus, said his members would not accept the idea of separate billing, which he felt would have suggested there was something wrong with the chorus. The concert and recording will now be done by the Amateurs Singers, at very considerable extra expense.

Mr Gavin Henderson, general manager of the Philharmonia Orchestra, expressed an intense regret that the chorus would not be able to take part. He said Equity was demanding that if professional singers were used with amateurs there should be a ratio of one professional to every two amateurs.

Mr Jack Elliott, the Equity organizer responsible for singers, denied that there was any set ratio.

"Where an orchestra like the Philharmonia employs a chorus, in such circumstances the professional instrumentalists should set a professional vocalists", he said.

Such a policy, if enforced by the orchestral musicians, could almost put out of business groups like the Philharmonia Chorus and the London Symphony Chorus.

Mr Spencer said amateur choirs had been going for many years and Equity was becoming more militant in its quest for work for professional singers.

Mr Elliott, however, believed Equity was defending its members from amateurs who were taking more and more of their work.

Homes for £5,000

Birmingham's Conservative-controlled council is offering to sell underdeveloped pre-war council houses for as little as £5,000 each.

Mr Steel expected to win vote on Lib-Lab pact today

Continued from page 1 going to cut income tax, and that the Liberals had been asking him to do that. That did not mean that Mr Steel had been given inside information. As for the "news" that profit-sharing schemes would be encouraged through tax reliefs in the Budget, Mr Pardon said that that was well known. The Liberals have been pressing for such action since the pact with Labour was agreed last March.

The Government's response to the so-called "leaks" was dismissive. Officials said that although the general principles of possible Budget changes were discussed with a wide variety of people, the Chancellor would never go into detail on his actual proposals. The Government's intention to help profit-sharing schemes had already been stated.

Mr Steel went off to Blackpool after attending the Commons in the morning and last night he was consulting all sections of the party. The general impression was that he will win an overwhelming majority for that part of the resolution on the pact that states:

"This assembly... expects by the time the Finance Bill, 1978, is enacted the Lib-Lab parliamentary agreement will have successfully achieved its immediate purpose for the good of the country; and believes that the agreement should continue only until, in the light of this resolution, the leader of the party in consultation with the senior officers of the party, and with the parliamentary party, decides to end it."

Thereafter, the resolution states, the party would be determined to seek the endorsement of the British people at a general election for its achievements and policies.

The 2,000 delegates to the assembly, which is being held



Mr Steel working at the Commons yesterday before leaving for today's Liberal assembly.

at the Opera House in the Water Gardens, will have the choice of voting for that section or the "end the pact" call that is backed by Mr Smith.

That part of the resolution recognizes that the pact has been in the national interest "because it has strengthened the economy at a time of grave danger, has ensured that the

Government maintains the attack on inflation, and has changed the direction of what had previously been a doctrinaire socialist government."

But it goes on to deplore the fact that many Labour MPs had undermined that constructive approach to the country's difficulties, for example by cooperating with the Conservative leadership to frustrate

democratic reform and European ideals. Therefore the pact should be ended immediately.

The combined motion was introduced by Mr Ritchie Wainwright, MP for Colons Valey, and chairman of the party's section calling for the pact to be ended with effect moved by Mr Andrew El

prospectively candidate for Newcastle upon Tyne, Central, at the party's by-elections office. That part allowing Mr Steel with the parliamentary party free hand in deciding when end the pact will be moved by Mr Roger Pancham, the prospective candidate for Leominster.

Mr Steel will intervene sum up for all those who support the second option.

To begin the special assembly, delegates will debate motion on the party's attitude to direct elections to the European Parliament to be moved by Mr Christopher Mayhew, prospective candidate for Barking.

It calls on other European Liberal parties to make proportional representation a plank in their manifestos. The first European election and proposes that the United Kingdom Liberal candidates who would have been elected under a fair vote system should take their place in the European assembly.

illustrate forcefully the representative and undemocratic nature of the British delegation and to call into question the delegation's credentials."

Child benefit rise of £1 a week expected

The Cabinet is expected to approve a proposal to raise the trade unions that child benefits should rise by £1 a week to £3.30 in November. That would cost £600m in a full financial year.

Ministers who sit on a joint working party between the TUC and the Labour Party have "given a nod and wink" that the unions' suggestion will be incorporated in a forthcoming package of economic measures.

The proposal forms part of the draft 1978 Economic Review being drawn up by the TUC as the basis of its annual representations to the Chancellor on a projected 5 per cent growth in the economy.

Because Mr Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and Mr Clegg, Minister for Social Security, who are members of the TUC-Labour working party, have not voiced objections to the measure, the unions assume that it will be put into operation.

Mr Elliott, however, believed Equity was defending its members from amateurs who were taking more and more of their work.

Mr Spencer said amateur choirs had been going for many years and Equity was becoming more militant in its quest for work for professional singers.

Mr Elliott, however, believed Equity was defending its members from amateurs who were taking more and more of their work.

Birmingham's Conservative-controlled council is offering to sell underdeveloped pre-war council houses for as little as £5,000 each.

Volunteers to join search for boy

From Annabel Ferriman

Reading. Hundreds of volunteers are to take part in the search today for Lester Chapman, aged eight, who has been missing from his home at Reading for the past nine nights.

The search will start from the boy's school, Coley Park Primary, at 9 am. The boy disappeared after school a week ago last Thursday.

Fears were mounting last night that he would not be found alive because of the very cold nights. Police Supt Peter East, who is leading the inquiry, said yesterday that if the boy had been sleeping rough his chances of survival were nil. "I

am hoping against hope that someone has been sheltering him. Alternatively he might have been held somewhere against his will."

Murder had to be considered as a possibility. A search will cover four square miles, and more than a hundred police, four dogs and a helicopter will be used. If nothing is found door-to-door inquiries will be made.

The mother of the boy, said yesterday that it was the fifth time since Christmas that he had disappeared, but he had never before been missing for more than three hours. She said she had asked for him to be taken into care because she could

not control him, but that her request had been refused. Berkshire County Council said yesterday:

Lester was in our care for about two-and-a-half years from the age of a few months. He then went back to his mother. Our recent involvement began on December 30, when a duty social worker was called to Reading police station after Lester had been found for the first time. The social worker noticed that he had

On January 2 a social worker was called again by the police, because Lester had been found again. Mrs Chapman was asked to call on the social services department the next day, which she did, and a social worker was assigned to the case. From January 9 there was virtual daily visiting.

Brady, the moors murderer says 'Do not release me'

By a Staff Reporter

Brady, the Moors murderer, said in a letter published in the *Daily Mirror* yesterday that he and his accomplice, Myra Hindley, should never be released from prison. He wrote from the top security wing of Wormwood Scrubs.

"I have always accepted that the weight of the crimes both Myra and I were convicted of justifies permanent imprisonment, regardless of expressed personal remorse."

Brady complained that Lord Longford persisted in raising the question of his parole against his wishes. He also complained: "Although I have served 13 years and have committed no major offence against prison discipline during that time, I am still not allowed the ordinary degrees of controlled freedom and privileges that other prisoners are granted automatically on

arrival in prison; I have not even been allowed to see television for over six years."

Brady is a category A prisoner, that is, one kept under special restraint because of his escape would be highly dangerous to the public, or the police, or to the security of the state. The status of all category A prisoners is reviewed annually by a group of experienced prison department officials.

Lord Longford replied to the letter yesterday by saying that he had never wanted Brady to be freed: "I have always been at great pains to point out that Brady does not want parole. If he does not want it, there is no chance that he will get it."

"You cannot force a man to take parole. But I have always said that there should be a rule that after 10 years in prison people should automatically be asked for consideration for parole."

Body of teenage girl found in roadside ditch

The naked body of a teenage girl has been found in a waterlogged roadside ditch near an old rubbish dump on Old Skirlake Road, on the outskirts of Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Det Supt Norman Lawson, who is leading the inquiry, said the girl was white, aged between 13 and 19, about 5ft 3in, with dark brown hair. He added: "The body was in an advanced state of decomposition."

The police were treating it as murder.

Supt Lawson said no clothing had been found. "The cause of death has not been established, but there are no obvious injuries on the body." He could not rule out strangulation.

The girl is thought to have died between two and four years ago, and her body was found by a man looking for scrap metal on Thursday night.

Petrol threat by Shell tanker drivers grows

By Paul Routledge

The threat of disruption to petrol supplies grew last night as union leaders of 2,200 Shell Oil tanker drivers failed to get ministerial approval for a pay deal.

The drivers sought sanction from the Department of Employment for a proposed wage agreement with the company, but the Government refused permission. Mr Jack Aspinwall, a Transport and General Workers' Union official, said after the talks: "There will be no settlement."

He reported back to a meeting in north London of shop stewards representing the drivers. They discussed what sanctions to impose in pursuit of their 30 per cent claim.

BP drivers have decided to ban overtime from February 1 in support of their pay claim, which the company fears will disrupt petrol supplies to filling stations all over Britain.

The Department of Employment refused last night to give any guidance about the pay matter on which they had been consulted. The tanker drivers have been offered 10 per cent plus unspecified extras.

Shell said: "We merely wanted clarification from the department on whether one point fell within government pay guidelines. It obviously did not."

The tanker drivers are providing particularly difficult group for the Government.

The tanker drivers are providing particularly difficult group for the Government.

The tanker drivers are providing particularly difficult group for the Government.

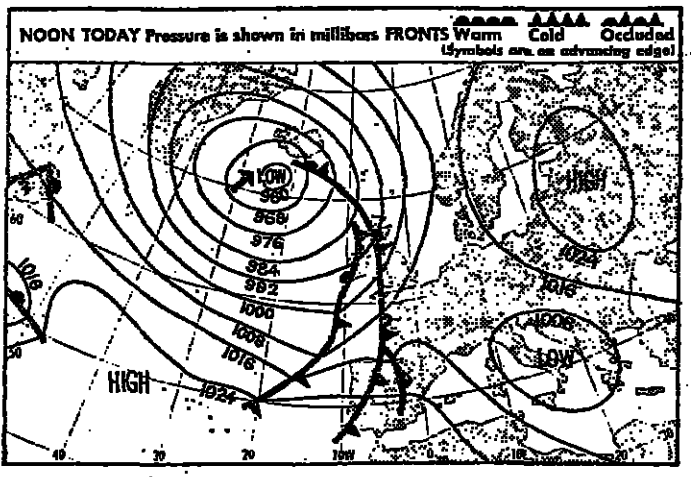
The tanker drivers are providing particularly difficult group for the Government.

The tanker drivers are providing particularly difficult group for the Government.

The tanker drivers are providing particularly difficult group for the Government.

The tanker drivers are providing particularly difficult group for the Government.

Weather forecast and recordings



Today		Tomorrow	
Sun rises	7:54 am	Sun rises	7:53 am
Moon sets	4:30 pm	Moon sets	4:32 pm
Moon rises: 6:10 am		Moon rises: 6:10 am	
Full moon: 24 January 22.25 pm		Full moon: 24 January 22.25 pm	
Lighting up: 5.0 pm to 7.23 am		Lighting up: 5.2 pm to 7.17 am	
High Water: London Bridge, 12.15 pm, 6.50 pm (21.2ft); Avonmouth, 5.3 am, 10.30 am (35.7ft); 5.34 pm, 11.20 am (36.8ft); Dover, 9.19 am, 5.70 pm (18.6ft); 9.50 am, 5.50 pm (19.4ft); Hull, 4.9 am, 12.30 pm (21.3ft); Hull, 4.58 am, 12.30 pm (20.7ft); Liverpool, 9.32 am, 8.00 pm (26.4ft); 9.51 pm, 8.10 pm (26.6ft).		High Water: London Bridge, 12.36 am, 6.70 pm (22.0ft); 1.0 pm, 6.60 pm (21.8ft); Avonmouth, 5.55 am, 11.50 am (37.9ft); 6.20 pm, 11.80 pm (38.6ft); Dover, 10.5 am, 5.50 pm (19.4ft); 10.30 pm, 6.20 pm (21.3ft); Hull, 4.58 am, 12.30 pm (20.7ft); 5.13 pm, 6.60 pm (21.7ft); Liverpool, 10.14 am, 8.40 pm (27.6ft); 10.32 pm, 8.40 pm (27.5ft).	

A deep depression is near Iceland, with associated troughs crossing the British Isles from the W.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight: London, East Anglia, E and SE England: Bright, periods, rain later; wind SW light, becoming S, strong; max temp 7°C (45°F).

SW England, S Wales: Periods of rain, hill fog; wind SW, fresh; becoming S, strong to gale; max temp 8°C (46°F).

N Wales, Glasgow, Argyll, SW and NW Scotland, Isle of Man: Periods of rain preceded by snow on high ground, hill fog; wind S, strong to gale; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Shetland: Bright intervals and showers, rain later; wind S, moderate, increasing to strong to gale; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Lake District, central N and NW England: Dry at first, rain spreading from W, preceded by snow on high ground, hill fog; wind S, fresh or strong, increasing to gale in places; max temp 7°C (45°F).

Borders, NE England, Edinburgh, Dundee: Bright intervals after early fog patches, rain spreading from W, preceded by snow on high ground, hill fog; light, becoming S, strong to gale; max temp 6°C (43°F).

Aberdeen, central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney: Dry at first, then periods of rain, hill fog, some snow on high ground; wind S, moderate, increasing to strong to gale; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Shetland: Bright intervals and showers, rain later; wind S, moderate, increasing to strong to gale; max temp 5°C (41°F).

Movements by bank fraud men 'a jigsaw'

The detailed movements of men operating a multi-million pound forged bank draft fraud which it has been stated could have undermined the civilized world's banking system, could be pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle, Mr Kenneth Richardson, for the prosecution, said in a statement from Central Criminal Court yesterday.

He referred to extracts from dossiers built up by undercover detectives and to an album of 300 photographs, a selection from 6,000 they had secretly taken.

Six men have pleaded not guilty to six charges of conspiracy relating to plots to defraud banks, companies and businesses by the use of forged bankers' drafts and identity documents; to forge the drafts and to utter them with intent to defraud.

The trial continues on Monday.

Nuclear waste corporation proposed in Bill

By Our Political Correspondent

A nuclear waste disposal corporation to protect the public and the environment is proposed in a private member's Bill introduced by Mr Trevor Skeet, Conservative MP for Bedford, published yesterday.

The corporation would have powers to direct long-term storage or disposal of highly active, long-life nuclear waste on land, in suitable formations, or at sea, in safe containers.

The Bill comes up for second reading on February 3 and is not likely to have government backing. Apparently ministers agree that some such action is necessary, but believe wider consultations are required before legislation is attempted.

The corporation would have powers to direct long-term storage or disposal of highly active, long-life nuclear waste on land, in suitable formations, or at sea, in safe containers.

The Bill comes up for second reading on February 3 and is not likely to have government backing. Apparently ministers agree that some such action is necessary, but believe wider consultations are required before legislation is attempted.

The corporation would have powers to direct long-term storage or disposal of highly active, long-life nuclear waste on land, in suitable formations, or at sea, in safe containers.

The Bill comes up for second reading on February 3 and is not likely to have government backing. Apparently ministers agree that some such action is necessary, but believe wider consultations are required before legislation is attempted.

The corporation would have powers to direct long-term storage or disposal of highly active, long-life nuclear waste on land, in suitable formations, or at sea, in safe containers.

86% of children go to first-choice school

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent. Eighty-six per cent of the 30,000 primary school children who transferred to secondary schools in inner London last September were accepted at the school of their first choice, a report of the Inner London Education Authority schools sub-committee shows. The report will be presented to the education committee on Tuesday.

The proportion of satisfied pupils and parents is much higher than the authority had dared to hope for in the first year in which all the secondary schools have a comprehensive intake. It is the same as the proportion in 1976, when there were still 32 grammar schools selecting pupils according to their ability.

The overall figure for the authority's whole 11-plus age group disguises the fact, however, that a quarter of group one children, those in the top quarter of the ability range, failed to get accepted to the school of their first choice, compared with a fifth of those children in 1976.

That increase is largely due to the pressure from bright children for places at the for-

mer grammar schools, the report suggests. In Lewisham, for example, the borough that had the highest proportion of grammar schools, more than two fifths of group one children failed to get into the school of their first choice.

Under the ILEA's transfer scheme parents of children of transfer age may express a preference for any of the 180 secondary day schools within the authority's area.

The children will have already been placed in one of three groups according to the basis of verbal reasoning tests taken the previous autumn: the top 25 per cent in group one, the next 50 per cent in group two, and the bottom 25 per cent in group three.

Each school is then theoretically assigned children in accordance with the 25-50-25 ability balance for the authority as a whole, but with the balance of ability for its particular intake. The 10 divisions within the ILEA.

That means that a school in Hackney, for example, can expect to get a maximum of only 15 per cent group one children in its total intake and a school in Islington 18 per cent, while a school in Camden or Westminster can get 29 per cent of group ones and Lewisham 28 per cent, because

those are the proportions of group one children in that particular division.

Less bright children are more likely to get into the school of their first choice. Last September 88 per cent of group two children and 91 per cent of group three children were placed according to their first preference.

Eighty-seven per cent of the 4,523 pupils who did not get into the school of their first choice were accepted at schools of their second choice, leaving a total of 1,168 unhappy and sometimes angry parents, representing, however, only about 3 per cent of the total transfer group.

The children will have already been placed in one of three groups according to the basis of verbal reasoning tests taken the previous autumn: the top 25 per cent in group one, the next 50 per cent in group two, and the bottom 25 per cent in group three.

Each school is then theoretically assigned children in accordance with the 25-50-25 ability balance for the authority as a whole, but with the balance of ability for its particular intake. The 10 divisions within the ILEA.

That means that a school in Hackney, for example, can expect to get a maximum of only 15 per cent group one children in its total intake and a school in Islington 18 per cent, while a school in Camden or Westminster can get 29 per cent of group ones and Lewisham 28 per cent, because

those are the proportions of group one children in that particular division.

Less bright children are more likely to get into the school of their first choice. Last September 88 per cent of group two children and 91 per cent of group three children were placed according to their first preference.

Eighty-seven per cent of the 4,523 pupils who did not get into the school of their first choice were accepted at schools of their second choice, leaving a total of 1,168 unhappy and sometimes angry parents, representing, however, only about 3 per cent of the total transfer group.

The children will have already been placed in one of three groups according to the basis of verbal reasoning tests taken the previous autumn: the top 25 per cent in group one, the next 50 per cent in group two, and the bottom 25 per cent in group three.

Each school is then theoretically assigned children in accordance with the 25-50-25 ability balance for the authority as a whole, but with the balance of ability for its particular intake

HOME NEWS

Mr Whatsisname fined £150 in property conveyancing case

From Arthur Osman

Mr Francis Whatsisname (formerly Reynolds) was fined a total of £150 by Worcester magistrates yesterday after being found guilty of preparing instruments of property conveyancing as an unqualified person, contrary to the Solicitors' Act, 1974.

The Law Society, which had initiated the prosecution, asked for limited costs of £750, and the bench ordered Mr Whatsisname to pay £600 towards them.

Mr Whatsisname, a law lecturer, of Hydon Road, Worcester, was given 56 days to pay, and after the hearing said he would lodge an appeal.

He also said: "It is perfectly legal as far as I am concerned and I am going to carry on doing it." For the past five and a half years he has acted as a "honorary conveyancer" for the Property Transfer Association (PTA) in cut-price transactions.

Michael Hoyle, senior assistant secretary of the Law Society, who said in evidence that the society would seek to enforce the law, said later: "After any appeal, were the case to continue, then of the British Association of the evidence and considering it on the basis of the evidence at that stage."

Mr C. S. Roberts, the chairman of the bench, could not help thinking that the case was never really in dispute, and they found Mr Whatsisname guilty on three informations of preparing instruments. They adjourned sine die the informations of drawing the instruments.

He continued: "We find and indeed it was agreed, that the defendant did prepare the instruments and he attempted, but failed, to prove the acts were not done for or in expectation of any fee, gain or reward."

"We base that finding on this: that the device of not charging for the preparation of the instrument is not successful and that the defendant charged by the Property Transfer Association the whole of the property trans-

Welsh urge that is greater than reason

From Tim Jones

The seasonal fever, endemic and entirely uncurable, that turns South Wales into a national park for rugby fanatics has begun. From now until the first great roar greets the national side as it runs on to the field the most ingenious plays and ploys will be employed to secure entry into the "battle-ground" arena.

Most supporters who are not yet assured of a ticket will emerge from the fray frustrated and sadder but wiser. But a lucky few will against all odds secure by subterfuge, prayer or initiative the priceless document that will enable them to enter the stadium.

Some will pay £50 and more to secure for a 54 ticket while others, like Mr Edward John, of Penzance, will obtain their tickets by more dignified means. Mr John has offered a week's free holiday for two at his seaside inn in exchange for two tickets. He wants to avoid the disappointment of last season when he travelled to Cardiff but had to watch the game on television.

Although the first game in Cardiff against France is not until mid-March the tickets have been sent to clubs big and small, who determine by lottery or selection who the lucky holders will be.

Most prized of all tickets are those for the game against England, the traditional enemy at Twickenham on February 4. Driven by an urge greater than reason, hundreds of fans will travel from the valleys in the hope that, somehow, the journey will be able to secure admission to the ground.

Cardiff is by now familiar with the twice-yearly invasion. Mr Owen Jones, manager of the Angel Hotel, near the national stadium, has adopted the practice of hiring additional staff from the Corps of Commissioners' Inspectors.

He has praise for the behaviour of the majority of fans and he has discovered that the occasional troublemaker is much less likely to challenge an aging medal-beckoned commissioner than a burly professional security guard.

Some close observers of the game in Wales are concerned some viciousness that has appeared in a small section of supporters. They hope the scenes that discredit so many football matches will never become a feature of their main sport.

Most fans, however, remain philosophical. They are aware who wins as long as it is Wales.

Welsh urge that is greater than reason

From Tim Jones

The seasonal fever, endemic and entirely uncurable, that turns South Wales into a national park for rugby fanatics has begun. From now until the first great roar greets the national side as it runs on to the field the most ingenious plays and ploys will be employed to secure entry into the "battle-ground" arena.

Most supporters who are not yet assured of a ticket will emerge from the fray frustrated and sadder but wiser. But a lucky few will against all odds secure by subterfuge, prayer or initiative the priceless document that will enable them to enter the stadium.

Some will pay £50 and more to secure for a 54 ticket while others, like Mr Edward John, of Penzance, will obtain their tickets by more dignified means. Mr John has offered a week's free holiday for two at his seaside inn in exchange for two tickets. He wants to avoid the disappointment of last season when he travelled to Cardiff but had to watch the game on television.

Although the first game in Cardiff against France is not until mid-March the tickets have been sent to clubs big and small, who determine by lottery or selection who the lucky holders will be.

Most prized of all tickets are those for the game against England, the traditional enemy at Twickenham on February 4. Driven by an urge greater than reason, hundreds of fans will travel from the valleys in the hope that, somehow, the journey will be able to secure admission to the ground.

Cardiff is by now familiar with the twice-yearly invasion. Mr Owen Jones, manager of the Angel Hotel, near the national stadium, has adopted the practice of hiring additional staff from the Corps of Commissioners' Inspectors.

He has praise for the behaviour of the majority of fans and he has discovered that the occasional troublemaker is much less likely to challenge an aging medal-beckoned commissioner than a burly professional security guard.

Some close observers of the game in Wales are concerned some viciousness that has appeared in a small section of supporters. They hope the scenes that discredit so many football matches will never become a feature of their main sport.

Most fans, however, remain philosophical. They are aware who wins as long as it is Wales.



Mr Gupta studying his next target area, behind an Indian cinema in Southall.

Campaigner gets the street swept

By John Young

A campaign to clean up Southall, West London, and prove that immigrants are not "dirty" is beginning to attract national attention. Its founder, Mr Shambhu Gupta, has received requests for information and advice from as far afield as Bradford.

Until his campaign, Mr Gupta says, Southall council neglected Southall in comparison with other parts of the borough. Roads and pavements were not repaired, gutters and drains were not swept or cleared, and refuse collection was irregular.

Once, he says, the council official told him: "If we clean the streets, your people will only dirty them again."

"Of course, that was nonsense," he adds. "How can immigrants be responsible for keeping paving stones and blocked gutters? We carried

out a survey of nine streets and found that out of 233 gutters 91 were blocked with gravel, sand and dirt." The council has agreed to clear them.

But Mr Gupta is not anxious to make racial capital. His aim is simply to promote healthier and more attractive living conditions. Twenty-five of the 131 members of his campaign are white.

Aged 35, he came to England in 1971 after working as a research chemist for the Indian Institute of Petroleum. He did research at Brunel University before deciding to devote his energies to environmental matters.

He has persuaded the council to make skips available for dumping rubbish and has sent circulars to residents urging them to clean up their gardens and alleyways. This summer he plans to organize competitions for the best kept garden in each street.

The council has a somewhat ambivalent attitude to Mr Gupta. Although it rejects the charges, it recognizes that he has helped to get things done and to infuse a spirit of responsibility into the immigrant community.

WEST EUROPE

Ban on protest show against arrest of Barcelona actors

From Harry Debelius

Madrid, Jan 20. For the second time, the authorities in Barcelona have banned an all-day variety show in which scores of entertainers planned to express support for five fellow troupers facing court martial, on charges of insulting the armed forces.

The spectacle, entitled *Freedom of Expression*, was to call attention to the plight of Señor Albert Boadella, the manager of a mime troupe known as Els Joglars, and four of his actors. They were arrested by order of the Army on December 16 under laws in force since General Franco's regime and giving the armed forces the authority to hold and try civilians in certain cases.

The planned spectacle was to have taken place in Barcelona's Montjuïc Park tomorrow. The event had originally been planned for January 7, but, under pressure from the Army, the authorities refused permission on the grounds that the application for the permit was improperly drawn up.

In explaining the second prohibition, the Barcelona Civil Governor said in a statement that the decision to ban the show was based on fears "of new provocations by radical groups which might try to take advantage of the noble aims of the organizers of the festival, in order to commit new criminal acts." This was a reference to a fire in a Barcelona night club in which four people died last Sunday.

A military prosecutor has filed a pre-trial brief in the case of the mime troupe, demanding sentences totalling

18 years in jail for Señor Boadella and 12 years for the other four.

Els Joglars presented *La Torra*, a mime about the execution of a Polish murderer in 1974, staged at a Barcelona theatre last December. After the twelfth performance the Army intervened. The prosecutor is asking for 12 sentences of one to one and a half years' jail each—one sentence for each of the 12 performances.

Among those who were to take part in tomorrow's show was Luis Llach, a singer. A filmed interview in which he criticized the arrest of Señor Boadella was removed from newsreels shown in Barcelona cinemas this week apparently by order of the new reinstated Generalitat, the Catalan regional government.

Others who planned to take part in the show included Manuel Gerez and Raimon, both singers who were repeatedly arrested, fined and banned under General Franco.

The trial is expected to be held in Barcelona before the end of the month. Even if the court accepts the prosecutor's demands, none of the five will have to serve more than four and a half years at most.

A provision in the code of military justice says that when multiple sentences are imposed, the prisoner should not serve more than three times the length of the longest single sentence.

Thus, if the longest single sentence meted out to the manager turns out to be one and one-half years, he will not have to serve more than three times that period.

Amnesty is granted over murder of premier

From Our Correspondent

Madrid, Jan 20. The Madrid provincial court ruled today that all suspects in the case of the assassination in 1973 of Admiral Luis Carrero Blanco, a former Prime Minister under General Franco, should be granted full amnesty under a law passed in October.

The court also ruled that suspects in the case of the 1974 explosion opposite the central police headquarters in Madrid were also entitled to full amnesty because they had acted from political motives. Twelve people were killed and about 70 injured by the explosion.

There were 14 suspects in the assassination case and nine in that of the explosion, but four names appeared on both lists. Among those benefiting from the court ruling is Señor Pedro Ignacio Perez Becerra, alias Wilson, a Basque who studied in Britain. The police alleged that he had prepared the assassination plot.

Others include Dr Genoveva Forest i Tarrat, who is alleged to have written the ETA book about Admiral Carrero's assassination *Operación Ogre*. She is the wife of Alfonso Sastre, a playwright. Most of those affected by the court ruling, including Dr Forest, have already been provisionally released. Others have been in hiding until today.

Members of the family of Eduardo Moreno Bergeche, alias Fernu, the late ETA leader, allege that he was killed by members of his own organization in a dispute in San Sebastián in 1975. The ETA claimed that he had been killed by the secret police.

Exuberance dimmed but determination remains

The Celtic exuberance of Mr Francis Whatsisname was dimmed yesterday when the bill for his seven days of acting the role of David to the Law Society's Goliath was presented by Worcester magistrates.

But, like a true Irishman, his engaging charm did not desert him, nor in the way of so many magistrates, the determination to continue the battle whatever the odds and cost.

But they seem certain to be formidable after yesterday's second conviction in four years of his spirited attempt to dent, if not actually in the foreseeable future break, the status of the Law Society's Goliath.

Whatsisname was adopted as a surname instead of Reynolds in deed poll late last year to prevent his name being considered an adviser to his fellow men in all fields, including conveyancing, because of his LLB degree from London University. But he does not see himself as a bona fide solicitor.

The Law Society's advertisement, which urged the public ways to go to the professionals. After yesterday's setback has been through the appeal process, he intends to resume his role as a bona fide solicitor.

Mr Whatsisname is 32, his wife, Margaret, is a secondary school teacher, and they have a daughter, a girl aged 11 and a boy aged nine. He is a member of the Labour Party, and last year was on the executive of Worcester County Council.



Mr Whatsisname: Battle against heavy odds.

He is also a former member of Worcester City Council, and several members who recalled his days on those bodies regretted his departure, if only for his always lively and often impish participation. He regards his involvement in the community as his primary interest, and a true public service.

He was born in Dublin of middle-class parents, and was educated at a boarding school in the Irish Republic. After national service he read law at London University, although until then he had regarded himself as a scientist.

"I considered the law to be more relevant to life, and events have proved me right. My ethical imperative is to make things known in clear, concise, intelligible terms, not the gobbledygook beloved of legal and medical professionals."

He earns about £6,000 a year as a lecturer at Birmingham Polytechnic, and has no private income. His house is jointly owned. He said that he was financially embarrassed by the future financial implications of yesterday's decision by the court. His case involving legal transfer of property for the PTA would continue without payment.

Government 'abusing grant system' over transport

By Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent. The Government is interfering in local transport through an abuse of its central grant system, country councils throughout Britain stated yesterday.

Councils whose policies differ from central government thinking are being punished by withdrawal of grant, the Association of Metro political Authorities said. That was contrary to the purpose of the transport supplementary grant system introduced in 1975 and last year's White Paper, which advocated greater local autonomy in transport decision-making.

Mr Rodgers, Secretary of

State for Transport, is "putting strong pressure on shire counties to change their order of local, democratically determined priorities to suit the department's purposes," Mr James Ireland, chairman of Buckinghamshire County Council and of the Association of County Councils.

When councils put forward policies that did not follow central policies they were told that they were not meeting local needs, he said. "It seems incredible that the department, without any detailed local knowledge, is getting itself up as the arbiter of local needs and how they could best be met. Local authorities were elected for just that purpose."

Major role for Mr Heath in election doubted

By Fred Emery

Political Editor. Mrs Thatcher may have consulted her predecessor, Mr Heath, on his Middle East travels but she did not have to confirm a report yesterday that he would be given an important role in the election campaign.

While visiting London's East End she responded to questions with the retort that she did not write the headlines of the evening papers.

Sources close to her say that they assume Mr Heath will be a good Tory and undertake heavy speaking engagements during the campaign. But no one on Mrs Thatcher's side seemed authorized to discuss further what had passed between her and Mr Heath at their private 45-minute meeting last Sunday.

The drift was, however, towards playing down the idea of a "major role" for Mr Heath. There are many issues of present policy, from devolution for Scotland to proportional representation and commitment to the European idea, that divide the two Tories.

BBC rejects estimates of 'Think Tank'

By a Staff Reporter

The BBC yesterday rejected the reported statement by Sir Kenneth Berrill, head of the Central Policy Review Staff, to the House of Commons Expenditure Committee, that it would cost at least £50m for the BBC to "restore audibility throughout the world."

It said it had never argued for optimum audibility all over the world. "Minimum proposals for essential capital projects are intended to improve audibility in those areas in which the 'Think Tank' itself attaches importance: central and eastern Europe, the Middle East and east Africa."

The BBC said the cost of such projects would be £24m over five years, with additional operating costs of £16m and not £4m, the figure given by Sir Kenneth.

Drug sentences later

Six men involved in an extensive drugs business based in a Wiltshire village are to be sentenced by Mr Justice Park at Bristol Crown Court next Monday.

Hope of further delay in raising telephone charges

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds. An assurance that the Post Office would do all in its power to limit telephone tariff increases came from Sir William Barlow, the new chairman of the Post Office, at Leeds.

A commitment had been given that charges would not be increased until next April, he said: "We are trying to extend the period before price increases and I am not without hope."

At the same time he pointed out that by April it would be two and a half years since there had been an increase in tariffs.

He could not give a firm commitment on charges because a number of things were coming up, including wage negotiations. This year some £900m was being spent in replacing

Hope of further delay in raising telephone charges

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds. An assurance that the Post Office would do all in its power to limit telephone tariff increases came from Sir William Barlow, the new chairman of the Post Office, at Leeds.

A commitment had been given that charges would not be increased until next April, he said: "We are trying to extend the period before price increases and I am not without hope."

At the same time he pointed out that by April it would be two and a half years since there had been an increase in tariffs.

He could not give a firm commitment on charges because a number of things were coming up, including wage negotiations. This year some £900m was being spent in replacing

Hope of further delay in raising telephone charges

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds. An assurance that the Post Office would do all in its power to limit telephone tariff increases came from Sir William Barlow, the new chairman of the Post Office, at Leeds.

A commitment had been given that charges would not be increased until next April, he said: "We are trying to extend the period before price increases and I am not without hope."

At the same time he pointed out that by April it would be two and a half years since there had been an increase in tariffs.

He could not give a firm commitment on charges because a number of things were coming up, including wage negotiations. This year some £900m was being spent in replacing

Hope of further delay in raising telephone charges

From Ronald Kershaw

Leeds. An assurance that the Post Office would do all in its power to limit telephone tariff increases came from Sir William Barlow, the new chairman of the Post Office, at Leeds.

A commitment had been given that charges would not be increased until next April, he said: "We are trying to extend the period before price increases and I am not without hope."

At the same time he pointed out that by April it would be two and a half years since there had been an increase in tariffs.

He could not give a firm commitment on charges because a number of things were coming up, including wage negotiations. This year some £900m was being spent in replacing

Collect Stamps A Superb Souvenir

2nd June 1978 is the 25th ANNIVERSARY of the CORONATION of H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH II

This great Royal Occasion is being commemorated, with special postage stamps, by Great Britain herself and a number of other Commonwealth countries.

Over the years we have built up a fine reputation (of which we feel justly proud) for supplying sets of stamps, issued to mark important events, in very special, individually numbered, Presentation Packs—in themselves treasured collectors' items. In every case these packs have proved to be superb souvenirs of great Royal Occasions.

To mark the 25th Anniversary of the Coronation we are preparing three special Presentation Packs which we have every reason to expect will prove to be the best of all.

Presentation Pack B

The Commonwealth issue. Four territories (The Grenadines of St. Vincent, Montserrat, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, and Tuvalu) are each issuing a set of 4 stamps and a Souvenir Sheet based on the theme of Her Majesty as Defender of the Faith. Each of the 16 stamps involved depicts, most beautifully, a different Cathedral of the British Isles.

We have had a separate very special Presentation Pack designed to house these magnificent stamps and Souvenir Sheets, and our price will be between £12 and £16 (dependent upon prevailing exchange rates).

THE DE-LUXE PACK Presentation Pack C

All British Commonwealth issues. Great Britain, Botswana, Brunei, Guyana, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Singapore, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

We cannot give any estimation as to the likely cost of this Pack, but our price will be based on face value or cost plus 25%.

Judging by past experience it seems inevitable that several of these stamps will be printed in insufficient quantity to satisfy postal and collector demand - consequently complete sets will quickly command a premium and be much sought after.

For this reason it is of great importance that we should know urgently how many sets to order from each territory.

Presentation Pack A

A beautifully designed Pack containing the unique series of stamps (in sheetlets) to be issued by the Crown Agents on behalf of the following territories for whom they act:

- | | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|
| Ascension Island | Fiji | St. Helena |
| Barbados | Gambia | Solomon Islands |
| Belize | Gibraltar | South Georgia |
| B. Antarctic Territory | Mauritius | Swaziland |
| B. Virgin Islands | New Hebrides | Tristan da Cunha |
| Cayman Islands | Norvelles Hebrides | Western Samoa |
| Christmas Island | St. Christopher-Nevis-Anguilla | |
| Falkland Islands | | |

The Post Offices of each of these territories are issuing two strips of 3 stamps, printed in special commemorative sheetlets. In each case the centre stamps depict a charming portrait of Her Majesty, while those at the left show one of the Queen's heraldic beasts and those at the right a creature indigenous to the territory concerned. Between the strips is an illustrated "gutter" which includes details of the designs depicted.

Our price for each of these packs will be based on face value plus 25% - probably between £40 and £45. (We cannot at this stage be more precise in view of fluctuating exchange rates and the possibility of other territories joining up).

APPLICATION FORM

Send no money Now! To: Urch Harris & Co. Ltd., 7 Richmond Hill Avenue, Bristol BS8 1BQ

POSTAGE STAMPS COMMEMORATING THE 25th ANNIVERSARY OF THE CORONATION 1953-1978

Please record my application for the following, individually numbered, Presentation Packs containing the above stamps in superb mint condition:

Presentation Pack A (Crown Agents only) Packs
Presentation Pack B (Cathedral issues only) Packs
Presentation Pack C (All British Commonwealth) Packs

I understand that you will advise me when the pack(s) are ready for despatch and I agree to remit to you the amount involved on the basis of face value or cost plus 25%. Please acknowledge receipt of this application - stamped addressed envelope enclosed.

Name Address Date BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE

WEST EUROPE

Herr Kohl questions Bonn honesty over Nato spy case

From Patricia Clough

Herr Georg Leber, the West German Defence Minister, and Herr Klaus Bölling, the Government spokesman, today attempted to sort out apparent contradictions in official statements made about a recent spy case in which more than 1,000 Nato secrets were betrayed to East Germany.

The Opposition and right-wing newspapers have seized on the statements to question the Government's truthfulness. The Opposition's doubts arose after the disclosure by the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* last month that the secrets had allegedly been betrayed by three Defence Ministry employees who were arrested in June, 1976.

Herr Leber said at the time the newspaper report was the first he had heard about the magnitude of the affair. Herr Bölling said that Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, had known no more than Herr Leber.

Herr Helmut Kohl, the Opposition leader, said in Parliament yesterday that it was improbable that the two had not kept themselves informed. "I do not believe you," he told them.

The Chancellor interrupted Herr Kohl to admit he had been sufficiently informed about the seriousness of the case since June, 1976. Today Herr Leber told the parliamentary committee investigating the affair that

he had also known about its importance from the beginning. But he insisted he had no knowledge of the extent of the actual secrets lost to the East. It was this document that had formed the basis of the *Frankfurter Allgemeine* report. Herr Bölling also explained that his statement had referred to the document in particular, rather than the case as a whole.

Explaining his ignorance of the assessment, a fact which has astonished many Germans, he said his staff had decided he need not be informed since the document was drawn up for the information of the federal prosecutor investigating the case and was only part of incomplete investigations. He admitted that his state secretary and the army's highest-ranking general had known of it when he did not.

The Chancellor and Herr Leber now become even more vulnerable to accusations that they rushed up the spy case partly for electoral reasons, and failed to investigate how such a breach of security could occur.

The Government's handling of the affair has already damaged its credibility. The contradictions have made the Opposition highly sceptical of denials that secret service agents had tapped the telephone of Herr Strauss, the Christian Social Union leader, and conspired to damage him politically.

Britain said to have lost to Germany in tank gun race

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent
Britain has been beaten by West Germany in the competition to supply the tank gun for the United States Army tank, which is due to enter service in the 1980s, according to Government sources quoted by Reuters in Washington yesterday.

This is despite an earlier report that the British nor the West German guns had impressed the Americans during trials in Maryland last month.

The sources suggested that the Army, whose official decision is expected soon, had been swayed towards the German 120mm smooth-bore gun after political pressures had been brought to bear.

The first 1,100 or so of the 3,300 XM1s will be equipped with the existing British-designed 105mm gun with a range of superior American ammunition. The competition was held to help determine whether the Americans should switch to the German gun or a new British 120mm rifled barrel weapon for the other 2,200.

The British sources, who have

been in consultations with the United States Army all week, were surprised by this latest report. A spokesman in London was sceptical. But, if it is true, it could have worrying implications both for Britain's status as the Western world's most important source of tank guns and for the shape of British arms orders.

The West Germans have been exerting strong political influence on the Americans to accept their smooth-bore gun. The British are equally strong pressure put upon Britain to fit the German gun to M108, the British tank which should replace the Chieftain in the late 1980s.

But the British Army is convinced that a decision in favour of a smooth-bore would be a wrong one.

A Pentagon spokesman refused to confirm yesterday's report on the grounds that no decision has been taken. It is understood in London that the results of last month's trials have not yet been fully evaluated.

13 held in drive against ransom gang

Rome, Jan. 20.—Police today arrested a Roman Catholic priest, a retired Interior Ministry official and a former police officer, in moves against a gang they said had handled £2.8m ransom money.

The three were among 13 people arrested in simultaneous raids in four Italian cities.

Investigators said the gang had direct links with the Cosa Nostra criminal organization in the United States and also handled stolen paintings for sale to American museums. Police also recovered several valuable paintings, jewels and American, West German and Swiss currency.—UPI.

New Soares Cabinet will include non-Socialists

From Our Correspondent

Lisbon, Jan. 20.—Portugal faces a new period of national endeavour with the reappointment of Dr Mario Soares as Prime Minister.

His first all-Socialist government fell last month on a vote of confidence. His second government is founded on an agreement between the Socialist Party and the right-wing Christian Democratic Party, and will have a number of non-Socialist members.

The agreement lays down a programme on which to base a workable government. New elections to include the second

Soldiers enter West through Berlin wall door

Berlin, Jan. 20.—Six East German soldiers entered West Berlin early on Wednesday, took photographs and then went back through a door in the Berlin wall, officials said today.

The West Berlin Senate's security commission considered the incident as a "flagrant violation". A Senate spokesman said that the soldiers had photographed a riding stable and climbed on to a police observation tower.

The United States military authorities in whose sector of the city the incident occurred, said that it was being taken very seriously.—Reuters.

Signor Andreotti meets his party's leaders

Rome, Jan. 20.—Signor Andreotti today started his attempt to form a new government by discussing strategy with leaders of his Christian Democratic Party. He will begin negotiations with leaders of other Italian parties, including the Communists, on Monday.

Signor Andreotti, whose minority Christian Democratic Government resigned last Monday after rejecting Communist demands for Cabinet posts in an emergency administration, was asked by President Leone to try to form a new Cabinet. He commented immediately afterwards: "I do not hide from myself the difficulties involved."

Among those he conferred with today were Signor Benigno Zaccagnini, his party's secretary, and Signor Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister. There is no sign yet of a break in the deadlock between the Christian Democrats and the Communists.

Jail for German who killed British air girl

Frankfurt, Jan. 20.—A German printer was jailed for 10 years today for the manslaughter of a British air stewardess, Horst Groetzsch, aged 49, was found guilty of strangling Miss Geraldine Sheehan, aged 28, during or after they had had sexual intercourse in March, 1973. He then dismembered her body with a knife and threw it into the river Main.

Herr Groetzsch and Miss Sheehan, who was born in Bristol, had occupied adjoining flats in Frankfurt. Herr Groetzsch admitted cutting up Miss Sheehan's body, but denied killing her. He said she was killed by a visitor who was unknown to him. He got rid of the body as he feared he would be suspected because of his conviction in 1946 for murder.

That conviction was before a United States military court. He was sentenced to death, but he was later pardoned.—Reuters.

OVERSEAS

Rhodesian offer of amnesty to guerrillas

From Nicholas Ashford

Salisbury, Jan. 20.—The Rhodesian Government announced tonight that it has launched a "safe return programme" for black nationalist guerrillas who "wished to return to Rhodesia in peace".

According to an official statement, steps are being taken to inform guerrillas that, if they return in peace, "their lives will be spared". The guerrillas have also been told how to take advantage of what the statement described as "this offer of amnesty".

No details were immediately available as to how the safe return programme would operate. In particular, it was not clear whether surrendering guerrillas would be immune from prosecution if they were known to have been responsible for acts of terrorism.

At present, guerrillas face a possible death sentence if caught. The terms of the safe return programme, at least, mean that they would not be hanged, but they could still face imprisonment.

For the past few weeks the Rhodesian security forces have been distributing pamphlets in areas where guerrillas are known to be operating, offering them safety if they surrender. The pamphlets have been dropped in Mozambique and Zambia as well as Rhodesia.

One of the pamphlets, written in the English, Shona and Shindebele languages, urged guerrillas to "come home in safety". Explaining ways in which guerrillas could give themselves up, it stated: "If you return in peace the security forces guarantee that your life will not be in danger. You will be able to live in peace."

This is the first time the Rhodesian Government has introduced a full-scale safe return programme since the guerrilla war began six years ago. However, there have been a number of limited amnesties as well as a temporary ceasefire during the "detente" exercise at the end of 1974.

The announcement of a conditional amnesty is directly linked to the settlement talks taking place in Salisbury between Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, and the guerrillas. The talks are being held by two black political organizations. Two of the black leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa and the Rev Ndabandaba Sithole, have been urging the Government to offer a safe conduct to surrendering guerrillas.

Bishop Muzorewa and Mr Sithole are convinced that the combination of a safe conduct and the likelihood of a predominantly black government emerging as a result of the Salisbury talks will convince many of the young black fighters to lay down their arms.

However, the Patriotic Front organization, which is responsible for the conduct of the war, has already rejected the Salisbury settlement talks.

According to tonight's statement, there have already been a number of guerrilla surrenders during the past few weeks, some of whom have since been enlisted into the Rhodesian Army. It said that intelligence reports indicated there was a considerable degree of disillusion among the guerrillas' rank and file.

Malta talks: Britain now hopes that Mr Andrew Young, the American representative at the United Nations, will take part in the talks planned for later this month in Malta with the leaders of the Rhodesian guerrilla forces (Derry Hogan writes).

The Foreign Office has approached Mr Young about the likely dates of the visit. However, he will also be able to join Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, in London before going on to Malta.

Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, the two leaders of the guerrilla forces which comprise the Patriotic Front, have already agreed to attend the talks on January 30. They had earlier expressed a preference for January 26 but agreed to the British request for the later date.

largest parliamentary party, the Social Democrats, broke down, as did separate negotiations between the Socialists and the Communists.

This weekend is announced as one of contemplation "for the Prime Minister and the political parties, before he finally selects his ministers. He must present his programme to Parliament within 10 days."

According to the right-wing weekly *Die Tempo*, the Christian Democrats have demanded three ministries in the new Cabinet—foreign affairs, trade and tourism, and justice. They also demand six secretariats of state.

Former mayor in Trudeau Cabinet

Ottawa, Jan. 20.—Mr Gilles Samonagane, former mayor of Quebec, has entered Mr Trudeau's Cabinet. He is without portfolio. He was elected to Parliament.

He becomes the eleventh minister from Quebec province, including Mr Trudeau, in the 34-member Cabinet.



Though smiling happily together before their meeting, Mr Vance and President Sadat failed to discover a formula for resuming peace negotiations immediately.

Mr Sadat to 'let things cool a bit'

Continued from page 1

arrogant way and today or tomorrow he will see that Israel will not gain by it at all. Peace means that no one will tread on the land or the sovereignty of the other."

He added: "Whenever Israel chooses to agree to this principle, not to tread on other's land or sovereignty, everything can be resumed."

If President Sadat wants us, as he appears to be saying in his press conference, to commit ourselves to evacuating settlement points in the Sinai and all other territories before negotiations even have begun, our reply will be negative."

He went on: "We are ready to discuss the evacuation of our settlement points and all territories and the Egyptians know it. But we are not prepared to commit ourselves before discussion."

Tel Aviv: Mr John Mason, the British Ambassador to Israel, said today he was actively involved in efforts to secure peace.

Israel radio said Mr Mason

United States official "on board Mr Vance's aircraft during the flight from Cairo, President Sadat wants to 'let things cool a bit'."

"We've hit a bump in the road," he told accompanying reporters. Mr Sadat believed that the foreign ministers' meetings should remain in abeyance for a while, he added. But Mr Vance hoped the parallel military talks could get on the way.

Tel Aviv: Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, tonight ruled out any Israeli evacuation of Sinai settlements and occupied areas without negotiation.

He said on Israeli television: "If President Sadat wants us, as he appears to be saying in his press conference, to commit ourselves to evacuating settlement points in the Sinai and all other territories before negotiations even have begun, our reply will be negative."

He went on: "We are ready to discuss the evacuation of our settlement points and all territories and the Egyptians know it. But we are not prepared to commit ourselves before discussion."

Tel Aviv: Mr John Mason, the British Ambassador to Israel, said today he was actively involved in efforts to secure peace.

Israel radio said Mr Mason

told its correspondent that Britain's active involvement followed Mr Begin's visit to Britain last year and the close relationship he forged with Mr Callaghan—Agence France Presse and Reuters.

Our Ankara Correspondent writes: Any hopes that Mr Vance may have had for playing a part in settling the Cyprus dispute were dashed tonight by Mr Giscard d'Estaun, the Turkish Foreign Minister.

In a stiffly worded statement at Ankara airport as he welcomed the Secretary of State, he praised the American's qualities as "a number one trouble-shooter."

"We now have our trouble spots in this part of the world," he continued. "But I don't think Mr Vance will have the time to be interested in Cyprus and Turkish-Greek relations. We believe that we can solve these problems without interference from foreign powers and that in our talks here we should stick to issues of common interest."

The discussions here are expected to be centred on the American arms embargo against Turkey, the related issues of some 20 American bases which have been closed since 1975, and the defence cooperation agreement between the two countries which has been stagnating in Congress.

American business suspends judgment on Carter policies until next week

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Jan. 20.—The New York stock exchange was shut by a heavy snowfall this morning, and President Carter therefore missed the happy reaction he hoped to see to his State of the Union message. A serious business assessment of the economic prospects for 1978 will have to wait until next week.

By then the Government's economic and tax messages will be published, and the Budget will be issued on Monday. Although most of the rhetoric of Mr Carter's speech was music to the ears of conservative businessmen, they are more concerned to know whether or not he can keep inflation under control.

It is obviously unjust to expect a single speech to undo years of doubt over the country's economic future, but the President observed in another context, life is often unfair. A more important yardstick is the President's tacit abandonment of several of his promises.

This is the aspect of the speech which the newspapers concentrate this morning. In an article on its front page headed "A retreat from vulnerable positions", the *Washington Post* says that Mr Carter, like a general retreating from a vulnerable perimeter of political promises to

the safe high ground of his familiar campaign rhetoric.

He now speaks of moving "towards" a balanced budget—no longer offering the categorical assurance that it will be achieved in 1981. He has given up comprehensive reform of the tax system, which he used to describe as a disgrace to the human race. He has abandoned the targets for inflation and unemployment which he set, most impressively during the election campaign and in the early days of his presidency.

There was, none the less, much that was familiar in the speech. On energy, the President said: "We have failed the American people" by not passing the Energy Bill last year. Senator Robert Byrd, Democratic leader in the Senate, remarked afterwards that he did not think that Congress had failed anyone.

He sounded hurt and bewildered, which was all part of the game. In fact, he was neither of those things and the fight over the Energy Bill continues, with the President's side weakened by the death of two of his supporters in the Senate. Senator Hubert Humphrey and Senator Lee Metcalf, of Montana.

Although Mr Carter proposed less this year for Congress to do than last year on raising office, he still suggested a number of measures which it

will be very difficult to find time for this year.

He wants to separate the Department of Education from the present Department of Health, Education and Welfare; he wants to extend the federal jobs programme to provide an extra million jobs for unemployed youths; he wants to reform the civil service.

There is a tendency here to believe that Mr Carter is in political trouble because he is allegedly incapable of carrying out his various promises at home and abroad. If the country continues to prosper, however, things will look a great deal brighter next autumn during the congressional election campaign.

Most of the things Mr Carter has been urging on Congress since he took office, and in which he has failed, are not very interesting to ordinary people. His aim last night was to remind them of why they voted for him 14 months ago, and his success will not be measured in share prices.

The president announced last night that he would propose a tax cut of \$25,000m (£1,900m) of which \$17,000m would be personal taxes and the rest corporate taxes. He ruled out wage or price controls and specific guidelines for inflation levels, and called for cooperation between Government, business, and labour to deal with inflation.

Business News, page 17

Russia sure Ethiopia is right side to back

From Michael Binyon

Moscow, Jan. 20.—For the fourth day running *Pravda* today carried long reports denouncing the Somalis and accusing the United States and its allies of trying to "stifle the Ethiopian revolution".

An Ethiopian official in London was quoted as saying that the United States, Britain, Saudi Arabia and Egypt were trying to "internationalize" the conflict in the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia, he said, "highly appreciates" the stance of the communist countries, which came to its aid in a difficult time.

Pravda then quoted Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, as saying that Britain was considering a Somali request for arms.

The Somali-Ethiopia conflict has only recently been given prominence in the pages of the Soviet press. Long after the fighting began, the Russians were told of the Somali's friendship for the Soviet Union and their desire for close relations.

The Russians have clearly been stung by Western reports of Soviet intervention in Ethiopia, and now feel it is time to come down wholeheartedly on the side of the Ethiopians and against the "misguided" leadership of President Siad Barre of Somalia.

"authorized" statement by Tass two days ago, dismissing rumours of an impending Ethiopian counterattack with the help of Soviet military personnel and denying reports of

a secret visit to Addis Ababa by Marshal Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, was intended to quash speculation in the West as well as deal with any rumours that might have filtered back to this country.

Significantly, these rumours have drawn a rare admission that Russia is giving Ethiopia "appropriate material and technical assistance in repelling aggression", the statement appearing ironically opposite a denunciation of American arms sales abroad.

The Russians are anxious not to break off all links with Somalia, and have maintained diplomatic relations, though with much reduced embassies. But the Russians have no doubt that Ethiopia, with its 10 million population, is the right horse to back, and they are sure it will be difficult for the West to side openly with Somalia, which started the trouble.

Nevertheless, the Russians still have to reckon with the internal confusion in Ethiopia and the strength of African nationalism. Tass said Russia had done everything possible to stop the conflict breaking out. Clearly Russia would welcome peace negotiations if the Somalis could be persuaded to withdraw.

Washington talks: United States officials will discuss the situation in the Horn of Africa with representatives of Britain, France, West Germany and Italy in Washington this week end.—Agence France-Presse.

Leading article, page 11

Iran told to stop meddling in Somali conflict

Addis Ababa, Jan. 20.—The

Organization of African Unity today warned Iran against seeking to expand its sphere of influence in Africa and called on foreign powers to stop "meddling" in African affairs.

Reacting to a recent statement by the Shah that Iran would not remain idle if Ethiopia violated Somalia's border, the OAU said it had no room for any country whose consuming passion is to extend her sphere of influence in Africa by playing the role of a mini-power.

"Iran had better address herself to the question of finding a peaceful solution to the crisis in the Horn of Africa and assist the OAU in this task, rather than preoccupy herself with hypothetical situations which lead to the issue."

The OAU press statement said Iran's continued association with South Africa, which received 90 per cent of its oil supplies from Iran, did not qualify it to play any role in the African continent.

The statement said African problems must be resolved by Africans.

It added: "Foreign powers

should stop meddling in Africa and as regards the present conflict in the Horn of Africa, they should do nothing that would allow the situation to assume an international character, thereby complicating present OAU efforts to find a peaceful solution."

Nairobi, Jan. 20.—Somalia's charge d'affaires in Kenya said today that there were between 2,000 and 3,000 Russian mercenaries between 6,000 and 7,000 Cuban supporting Ethiopia in its war against Somali forces in the east and Eritrean secessionists in the north.

He told a press conference that there was also a force of 5,000 to 6,000 from other Warsaw Pact countries, including East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary, in Ethiopia. "All the big hotels, palaces and military barracks are freely used by them," he said.

Asked about Somalia's refusal to supply arms to Somalia, he commented: "At all Somali proverb says 'When there is no gun, you go by the stars'."—Reuters.

Americans expel Soviet diplomat

From Our Own Correspondent

Washington, Jan. 20.—The United States has expelled a Soviet diplomat, the second in a month. The first was expelled last month after an official said, "being caught red-handed in an attempt to obtain sensitive information from an American citizen."

The Russians retaliated on Wednesday by expelling Mr Donald Kuchin, the Soviet first secretary in the economics section of the American Embassy in Moscow for the past 18 months. The Americans considered this expulsion as not playing the game.

"We want to make it absolutely clear that Mr Kuchin has done absolutely nothing wrong in the performance of his duties," a State Department spokesman said yesterday. "Under these circumstances, we consider the Soviet action against Mr Kuchin unacceptable and we are declaring *persona non grata* an equivalent official of the Soviet Embassy in Washington."

The Americans have followed this tough policy towards the Russians for some time now. When the Russians expelled an American journalist from Moscow last year, alleging that he was a Central Intelligence Agency spy, the Americans promptly expelled a Russian journalist from Washington.

If the Russians treat American reporters in Moscow badly, then restrictions are nearly equivalent as possible are imposed on Russian journalists here. As a result, American correspondents in Moscow suffer much less economic and personal harassment than British or French correspondents.

In brief

Belgium protests at Chile arrests

Brussels, Jan. 20.—The Belgian Government today recalled its ambassador to Chile in protest at the recent arrests of Christian Democratic and trade union leaders there.

It also downgraded its diplomatic representation.

Farewell to Unibell

Cape Town, Jan. 20.—Buildings razed the last 40 of 2,000 shanties in Unibell Camp, the shanty quarters of some 50,000 unemployed of here, but about 20 per cent of the original population stayed on, camping out surrounded by their belongings.

Blizzard hits New York

New York, Jan. 20.—Mr Edward Koch, Mayor of New York, declared a state of alert as one of the worst blizzards hit the city since 1966, closed airports, schools and offices and blocked expressways in some places to a depth of 16in.

Mexican mission

Mexico City, Jan. 20.—Vice-President Walter Mondale arrived here for a 48-hour visit during which he is expected to sign a \$1.5-billion loan for a big World Bank loan to Mexico.

Miles starts well

Wijk aan Zee, Holland, Jan. 20.—Tony Miles of Britain began the Hoogevoort chess tournament here by beating Miguel Najdorf, the Argentine grandmaster.

Neighbours fall out

Quito, Jan. 20.—Relations have deteriorated between Ecuador and Peru, each country accusing the other of starting border incidents during the past 48 hours.

10

Saturday Review

The Kaiser in Bournemouth

by Alan Palmer

A short winter's day was ending prematurely as the special train pulled in to Bournemouth. The Kaiser, who had been in the imperial yacht, *Hohenzollern*, in mid-Channel and lengthened the journey from Portsmouth, almost obliterated British and German flags festooned beneath the glass canopy of the station. On the platform King Edward VII, dressed as colonel-in-chief of the 1st Prussian Dragoons, was waiting to receive his nephew, the German Emperor, at the start of a week-long state visit. Kaiser Wilhelm II, wearing the ceremonial uniform of a British Admiral of the Fleet, greeted his uncle warmly and accepted an address from the corporation of the royal borough. To return to Windsor, he assured the mayor in reply, was "like coming home again". Nine positionless landaus formed a procession to the castle. Onlookers, who had lingered in the streets despite the dreary weather, raised cheers of welcome. It was November 11, a date as yet of no significance in Anglo-German affairs.

The Kaiser had visited England many times. "Osborne is as he wrote later, 'is the scene of my earliest recollections', and he remained deeply conscious of being Queen Victoria's firstborn grandchild. Of all her 19 grandsons only Wilhelm had been seen by Albert, posted by Albert, and praised by Albert. It is small wonder that, though Victoria from time to time deplored the Kaiser's speeches and gestures, he found little difficulty in bounding back into royal favour. The Queen granted him a succession of unprecedented honours: he became the youngest foreign prince created a Knight of the Garter, the first overseas ruler made an Admiral of the Fleet in the Royal Navy, the first given the colonelcy of a British regiment. Wilhelm took these honours seriously: he gave unsolicited advice on military

and naval affairs; and, as he told the British ambassador, "always retained the deepest devotion" for his grandmother. In January, 1901, he abandoned celebrations of a Prussian royal bicentenary to hurry to her deathbed, and he supported her with his one sound arm for the final hours of her life. The Queen's funeral was the last occasion upon which he had ridden through the streets of London and Windsor, and the public had shown itself moved by his bearing and behaviour.

That was by now almost seven years ago. Family sentiment did not blind uncle and nephew as it had grandmother and grandson, and there was chronic nervousness between the governments. Although Wilhelm spent a week at the Kings guest at Sandringham in 1902, and entertained him at Wilhelmshöhe and Kiel there was no natural cordiality between the two men. King Edward, long irritated by Wilhelm's public poses, failed to recognize that the imperial *enfant terrible* was himself now a grandfather of nearly fifty. The Kaiser, though convinced Uncle Bertie sought the encirclement of Germany, hoped that a state visit to London would enable him to dispel suspicion by emphasizing the kinship of the British and German peoples: "You see in me England's best friend in Berlin," he once remarked to the British military attaché. At last, in mid-summer 1907, the cessation of Anglophone press attacks, together with fears of fresh misunderstandings after the conclusion of the Anglo-Russian Entente, led the King to invite his nephew to make the journey to which he had long set such store.

Even so, the visit nearly did not take place. Twelve days before the *Hohenzollern* was due at Portsmouth the King was amazed to receive a telegram from the Kaiser regret-

ting that he would not be able to come to England as he had developed a cough on top of influenza. This news was sufficiently startling for the King, who was spending a fortnight at Newmarket and Sandringham, to travel up to London. The foreign secretary thought Wilhelm's illness had been caused by British hints of the need to keep down the number of German warships escorting him to Portsmouth: the fact that the British ambassador had encountered the sick man riding at a gallop in the Tiergarten a few hours after cancellation of the visit suggested that the illness was hardly grave. The German ambassador, who was received in audience by King Edward on Saturday, November 2, made it clear that the Kaiser was in a fever of nervous anxiety rather than suffering from physical ailments.

English periodicals that weekend reported faithfully, though discreetly, "Germany's greatest scandal, that nearly shook the throne": a libel action against the journalist, Maximilian Harden, who had accused a group of the Kaiser's friends of indulging in "unnatural vices" and of exercising undue political influence on their master. Wilhelm had hoped the court would clear his friends' names and he was angry when the magistrate allowed questions which were barely relevant and which provided salacious details for newspapers at home and abroad. As the Kaiser admitted in a private letter a few weeks later this sordid affair dominated his thoughts, at times leaving him acutely worried. It is hardly surprising that momentarily his nerves shrank from facing London society and all the pomp and pageantry of Windsor.

The German ambassador told the King that the Kaiser needed a holiday: if the state visit took place he wondered whether there was anywhere

on the Isle of Wight where Wilhelm might stay privately for a fortnight after the public ceremonies were completed. King Edward had, on several occasions, visited Highcliffe Castle, near Bournemouth, the home of Colonel the Hon. Edward Stuart Wortley, and he asked the foreign secretary to see if the colonel would be prepared, at ten days' notice, to lease his home to the Kaiser for two weeks of quiet convalescence. Colonel Stuart Wortley was not, as has sometimes been said, already a friend of the Kaiser: he had never met him, although some years previously he had briefly entertained his brother, Prince Henry of Prussia, in Malta.

The colonel was related by marriage to the diplomat Sir James Rennell Rodd (who had served in Berlin) while Mrs. Stuart Wortley was a first cousin once removed of the Germanophile writer, Houston Stewart Chamberlain. The Wortleys, like many English families, were dismayed by the tone of the popular press and welcomed any opportunity to improve Anglo-German relations. Colonel Stuart Wortley informed the foreign office that he could not "lease" Highcliffe Castle to the Kaiser but he would be able to lend it to the German party provided he could himself remain on the estate and act as host. On the day after the Kaiser's arrival at Windsor, his court chamberlain travelled to Highcliffe to complete the arrangements which were announced to the press that evening.

Outwardly the state visit went well. The banquet in St. George's Hall, Windsor, on November 13 was so lavish that some of the German guests thought it outshone even the opulence of St. Petersburg. At a Guildhall luncheon in London the Kaiser made an emotional speech: he was pleased by an inscription which he had seen in the

streets which declared that "blood is thicker than water". A deputation from Oxford University honoured the most mighty prince, William II, with a doctorate in civil law and the King, declining to talk politics, organized shooting parties and command theatrical performances.

Yet, although the Kaiser cut an impressive figure to the general public, it was clear to those who knew him that his nerves were taut, and the photographs show how much he had aged since the court scandals had been spread across the pages of the newspapers. The foreign secretary found him poorly briefed on problems of the Middle East and he was surprised by the vehement tone in which the Kaiser condemned the activities of Jews in Germany. Harden was Jewish while insisting that he alone could restrain his people from outbursts of anti-Semitism. No one was sorry when the state visit officially ended: on Monday, November 18, the German Emperor and his ladies left Windsor by special train for Holland from one railway station; the Kaiser and a large retinue left for Hampshire from the other.

William's subsequent claim that at Highcliffe he sampled "the pleasures and comforts of English 'home and country life'" was not, strictly speaking, accurate. The standard at Highcliffe during his visit was markedly superior to the general level of the best hotels in London and he was able to keep in touch with the outside world by special postal facilities organized at the King's command. Moreover, Highcliffe Castle was an extraordinary private residence, so imposingly self-assured that it seemed designed less for lounging in leisure than for a semi-state occasion, a country home which accorded with the Kaiser's tastes.

Yet the illusion that he was, for once, a simple English country gentleman gave Wilhelm great pleasure. He spent most mornings walking on the cliffs or through the woods, often accompanied by Colonel Stuart Wortley. In the afternoon he "motored" (a fashionable verb that year) through the New Forest to Beaulieu, Ringwood, Wimborne or Bournemouth, once going as far as Wiltown and on another day making a more formal visit to Southampton. He worshipped at St. Mark's Church, Highcliffe, and was so pleased by the welcome he received on his walks from the children of the neighbourhood that he gave them a special tea party on the second Saturday of his visit, personally cutting the six-foot-high iced cake ordered for the occasion. As the Kaiser remarked in a letter to H. S. Chamberlain, the people whom he met during his Hampshire holiday showed no desire to "try into German affairs; and that, at the moment, was a welcome relief for him. So pleased was the Kaiser with his recep-

tion at Highcliffe that he arranged with Colonel Stuart Wortley to stay on at the castle for a third week.

There were enough tales of the Kaiser's table talk during his visit to excite speculation in the London clubs and in Fleet Street. At the beginning of December Colonel Stuart Wortley received a letter from an old friend asking if he could arrange for the Kaiser to give an interview to the well-known journalist, W. T. Stead, who had recently interviewed the Tsar. William refused. Stead, he told Stuart Wortley, had sought a meeting in Berlin but Chancellor Bülow had refused the Kaiser not to receive any journalists. "I have made a hard and fast rule not to accord any such interviews," William declared. "I do not require Mr Stead to put me right before the British public," he added. For the remainder of his visit, however, the colonel kept a record of their daily talks, enclosing the main points of the Kaiser's conversation in letters to his wife. These letters are now deposited in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.

The Kaiser talked freely. He began by recalling past efforts to improve relations with his grandmother's country. There was, for example, the time when Queen Victoria had appealed to him during the "dark days" of the Boer War. "I immediately set to work with my General Staff and, having considered the situation as it was, I recommended a certain line of military action," he said. "I was thanked for my advice, but the strategy followed by Lord Roberts on arrival in South Africa was exactly what I had recommended."

Next day the Kaiser treated Stuart Wortley to his version of the plot was dropped in 1890: Bismarck, he said, wished to call out the troops and fire on socialist agitators in the streets, but "I told Prince Bismarck that I would never allow before the Almighty the responsibility of shooting down my people". On December 7, as they were walking to Waterford Lodge, the Kaiser talked of the probability of an eventual war between the United States and Japan. "I foresee the danger of the Yellow Peril 20 years ago, and that is why I built my fleet—just to be ready to lend a helping hand." (Curiously enough, 34 years later, December 7 became the notorious "day of infamy" when the Japanese attacked the American base at Pearl Harbour.) Only one public figure in Britain came in for specific censure during these talks: the Kaiser described the first Sea Lord, Admiral Sir John Fisher, as "a most dangerous and overrated man... who rules the Navy by undermining who take bait thrown by him in... the fishpond".

There is no doubt the Kaiser enjoyed his three weeks at Highcliffe and believed he was helping to restore harmony between the two nations. At Christmas he told H. S. Chamberlain, "I was in the position of a guest among the great British people who received me warmly and with open arms", and one of the Kaiser's personal friends, Vice-Admiral Montagu, assured him that "your living a country gentleman's life for a bit has deeply touched our people". He returned to Potsdam glowing with Anglophile enthusiasm: a postcard in English to Colonel Stuart Wortley declared, "I am quite in love with your lovely place! I shall only be too glad to come again". This rhapsodic mood continued into the new year and prompted the strangest of all initiatives in the Kaiser's impulsive diplomacy.

While William was at Highcliffe, proposals were laid before the Reichstag for shortening the life of German battleships: the effect of these proposals was to speed up modernization of the fleet by 25 years each year. Parliamentary questions and newspaper comments in Britain showed widespread alarm at this newest race in building dreadnoughts. On February 18, 1908, a green registered envelope with a Postage stamp was received through the ordinary mail in Whitehall. It was addressed to "The First Lord of the Admiralty (sic), Lord Tweedmouth, London" and was signed William I.R., Admiral of the Fleet. The Kaiser four days previously, on his own initiative and without the knowledge of Chancellor Bülow or the Minister of Marine, Admiral von Tirpitz. It was a sincere attempt to minimize the "German danger" by playing down the sensationalist reports which the Kaiser had read in British newspapers on his return home. He assured Tweedmouth, whom he had met in England, that the German fleet was built against nobody at all and that the Royal Navy remained five times as strong as its rival across the North Sea. At the same time the Kaiser sent a courteous note to Edward VII informing him he had written, as an admiral in the British fleet, to the First Lord.

The "Tweedmouth letter" (as it was subsequently called) caused embarrassment both in London and Berlin: the King rebuked his nephew for a "new departure" in the conduct of international affairs; Bülow protested at this latest instance of his master's man-to-man diplomacy; and at Westminster the government faced a storm of moral indignation at the thought of a cabinet minister having received a communication from a foreign sovereign while the naval estimates were under discussion. The Kaiser was disappointed by the failure of his initiative and irritated by its consequences. He genuinely sought better relations with Great Britain and continued to insist there was no good reason for nervousness in England. He was puzzled by his inability to evoke a sympathetic response from those who had received him "warmly and with open arms".

In the autumn of 1908 he had the opportunity to repay some of the hospitality of the previous year. Stuart Wortley, by now a brigadier-general, was invited to German army manoeuvres near Metz, September 8-10. Once again Stuart Wortley held interesting conversations with his host. When he returned to England he wrote up the Kaiser's remarks at Highcliffe and Metz in the form of an interview, or as he preferred to call it, "a supposed communiqué". He sent a neatly typed version of the article to the Kaiser in Berlin on September 23, emphasizing in a covering letter the value of securing a "fair hearing" for Germany in the British press. The Kaiser meanwhile had travelled to Romania for an autumn shoot. From there he sent a telegram to Stuart Wortley which acknowledged receipt of the article, expressed his sympathies over a recent family bereavement and ended, inconsequentially, "I killed some very fine stags". The article arrived back in England on October 19: a letter, signed by the Kaiser four days previously, declared, "It embodies all the principal items of our conversation during the recent manoeuvres and deals in a most reasonable and straightforward manner with the justified complaints that I have to make against certain organs of the English press. I firmly hope it may have the effect of bringing about change in the tone of some of the English newspapers".

Stuart Wortley's article was published, as an interview, in *The Daily Telegraph* on Wednesday, October 28, 1908, and immediately created a sensation. It reproduced comments on the Boer War and on the threat from Japan which were made, originally, at Highcliffe. To these comments were added Wilhelm's asides jotted down in the recent manoeuvres; thus, the English were "blamed for their madness" made as March

between the two nations. At Christmas he told H. S. Chamberlain, "I was in the position of a guest among the great British people who received me warmly and with open arms", and one of the Kaiser's personal friends, Vice-Admiral Montagu, assured him that "your living a country gentleman's life for a bit has deeply touched our people". He returned to Potsdam glowing with Anglophile enthusiasm: a postcard in English to Colonel Stuart Wortley declared, "I am quite in love with your lovely place! I shall only be too glad to come again". This rhapsodic mood continued into the new year and prompted the strangest of all initiatives in the Kaiser's impulsive diplomacy.

While William was at Highcliffe, proposals were laid before the Reichstag for shortening the life of German battleships: the effect of these proposals was to speed up modernization of the fleet by 25 years each year. Parliamentary questions and newspaper comments in Britain showed widespread alarm at this newest race in building dreadnoughts. On February 18, 1908, a green registered envelope with a Postage stamp was received through the ordinary mail in Whitehall. It was addressed to "The First Lord of the Admiralty (sic), Lord Tweedmouth, London" and was signed William I.R., Admiral of the Fleet. The Kaiser four days previously, on his own initiative and without the knowledge of Chancellor Bülow or the Minister of Marine, Admiral von Tirpitz. It was a sincere attempt to minimize the "German danger" by playing down the sensationalist reports which the Kaiser had read in British newspapers on his return home. He assured Tweedmouth, whom he had met in England, that the German fleet was built against nobody at all and that the Royal Navy remained five times as strong as its rival across the North Sea. At the same time the Kaiser sent a courteous note to Edward VII informing him he had written, as an admiral in the British fleet, to the First Lord.

The "Tweedmouth letter" (as it was subsequently called) caused embarrassment both in London and Berlin: the King rebuked his nephew for a "new departure" in the conduct of international affairs; Bülow protested at this latest instance of his master's man-to-man diplomacy; and at Westminster the government faced a storm of moral indignation at the thought of a cabinet minister having received a communication from a foreign sovereign while the naval estimates were under discussion. The Kaiser was disappointed by the failure of his initiative and irritated by its consequences. He genuinely sought better relations with Great Britain and continued to insist there was no good reason for nervousness in England. He was puzzled by his inability to evoke a sympathetic response from those who had received him "warmly and with open arms".

In the autumn of 1908 he had the opportunity to repay some of the hospitality of the previous year. Stuart Wortley, by now a brigadier-general, was invited to German army manoeuvres near Metz, September 8-10. Once again Stuart Wortley held interesting conversations with his host. When he returned to England he wrote up the Kaiser's remarks at Highcliffe and Metz in the form of an interview, or as he preferred to call it, "a supposed communiqué". He sent a neatly typed version of the article to the Kaiser in Berlin on September 23, emphasizing in a covering letter the value of securing a "fair hearing" for Germany in the British press. The Kaiser meanwhile had travelled to Romania for an autumn shoot. From there he sent a telegram to Stuart Wortley which acknowledged receipt of the article, expressed his sympathies over a recent family bereavement and ended, inconsequentially, "I killed some very fine stags". The article arrived back in England on October 19: a letter, signed by the Kaiser four days previously, declared, "It embodies all the principal items of our conversation during the recent manoeuvres and deals in a most reasonable and straightforward manner with the justified complaints that I have to make against certain organs of the English press. I firmly hope it may have the effect of bringing about change in the tone of some of the English newspapers".

Stuart Wortley's article was published, as an interview, in *The Daily Telegraph* on Wednesday, October 28, 1908, and immediately created a sensation. It reproduced comments on the Boer War and on the threat from Japan which were made, originally, at Highcliffe. To these comments were added Wilhelm's asides jotted down in the recent manoeuvres; thus, the English were "blamed for their madness" made as March

between the two nations. At Christmas he told H. S. Chamberlain, "I was in the position of a guest among the great British people who received me warmly and with open arms", and one of the Kaiser's personal friends, Vice-Admiral Montagu, assured him that "your living a country gentleman's life for a bit has deeply touched our people". He returned to Potsdam glowing with Anglophile enthusiasm: a postcard in English to Colonel Stuart Wortley declared, "I am quite in love with your lovely place! I shall only be too glad to come again". This rhapsodic mood continued into the new year and prompted the strangest of all initiatives in the Kaiser's impulsive diplomacy.

While William was at Highcliffe, proposals were laid before the Reichstag for shortening the life of German battleships: the effect of these proposals was to speed up modernization of the fleet by 25 years each year. Parliamentary questions and newspaper comments in Britain showed widespread alarm at this newest race in building dreadnoughts. On February 18, 1908, a green registered envelope with a Postage stamp was received through the ordinary mail in Whitehall. It was addressed to "The First Lord of the Admiralty (sic), Lord Tweedmouth, London" and was signed William I.R., Admiral of the Fleet. The Kaiser four days previously, on his own initiative and without the knowledge of Chancellor Bülow or the Minister of Marine, Admiral von Tirpitz. It was a sincere attempt to minimize the "German danger" by playing down the sensationalist reports which the Kaiser had read in British newspapers on his return home. He assured Tweedmouth, whom he had met in England, that the German fleet was built against nobody at all and that the Royal Navy remained five times as strong as its rival across the North Sea. At the same time the Kaiser sent a courteous note to Edward VII informing him he had written, as an admiral in the British fleet, to the First Lord.

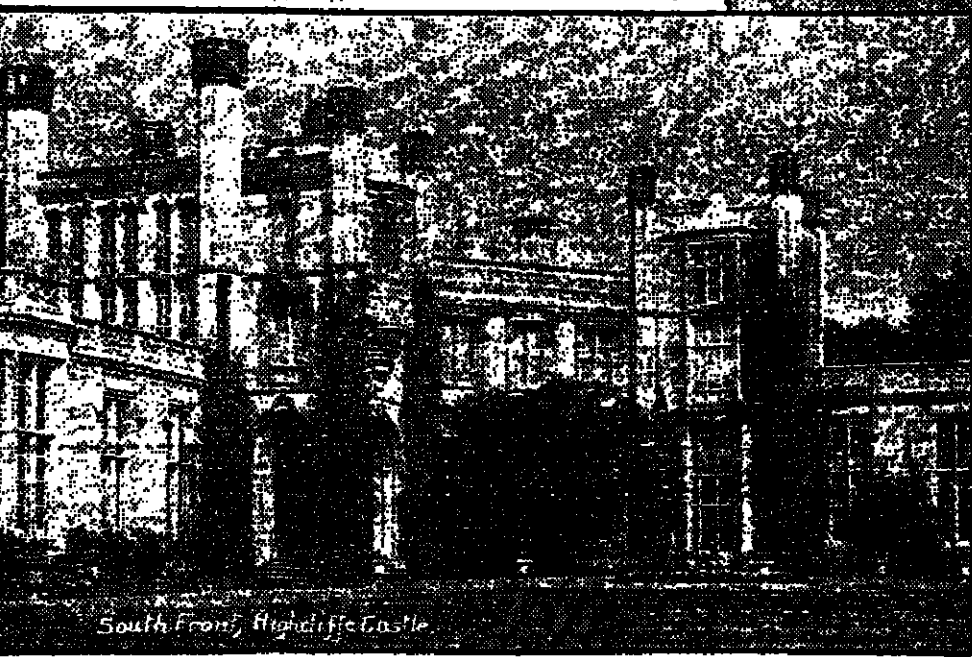
The "Tweedmouth letter" (as it was subsequently called) caused embarrassment both in London and Berlin: the King rebuked his nephew for a "new departure" in the conduct of international affairs; Bülow protested at this latest instance of his master's man-to-man diplomacy; and at Westminster the government faced a storm of moral indignation at the thought of a cabinet minister having received a communication from a foreign sovereign while the naval estimates were under discussion. The Kaiser was disappointed by the failure of his initiative and irritated by its consequences. He genuinely sought better relations with Great Britain and continued to insist there was no good reason for nervousness in England. He was puzzled by his inability to evoke a sympathetic response from those who had received him "warmly and with open arms".

In the autumn of 1908 he had the opportunity to repay some of the hospitality of the previous year. Stuart Wortley, by now a brigadier-general, was invited to German army manoeuvres near Metz, September 8-10. Once again Stuart Wortley held interesting conversations with his host. When he returned to England he wrote up the Kaiser's remarks at Highcliffe and Metz in the form of an interview, or as he preferred to call it, "a supposed communiqué". He sent a neatly typed version of the article to the Kaiser in Berlin on September 23, emphasizing in a covering letter the value of securing a "fair hearing" for Germany in the British press. The Kaiser meanwhile had travelled to Romania for an autumn shoot. From there he sent a telegram to Stuart Wortley which acknowledged receipt of the article, expressed his sympathies over a recent family bereavement and ended, inconsequentially, "I killed some very fine stags". The article arrived back in England on October 19: a letter, signed by the Kaiser four days previously, declared, "It embodies all the principal items of our conversation during the recent manoeuvres and deals in a most reasonable and straightforward manner with the justified complaints that I have to make against certain organs of the English press. I firmly hope it may have the effect of bringing about change in the tone of some of the English newspapers".

Stuart Wortley's article was published, as an interview, in *The Daily Telegraph* on Wednesday, October 28, 1908, and immediately created a sensation. It reproduced comments on the Boer War and on the threat from Japan which were made, originally, at Highcliffe. To these comments were added Wilhelm's asides jotted down in the recent manoeuvres; thus, the English were "blamed for their madness" made as March

This article is based on part of *The Kaiser, Lord of the Second Reich*, by Alan Palmer which will be published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson on February 16 at £7.95.

© Alan Palmer 1978



Left: the Kaiser (right), the Duke of Connaught (centre) and the King. Far left: Highcliffe Castle.

Conductor: DONALD CASHMORE
\$1.75, \$1.50, \$1.25, \$1.00 from Box Office (01-928 3191) & Agents



Gordon Chater: an Australian success story

with the company's *The Elocution of Benjamin Franklin*, which comes to the Lyric Theatre on February 7 and 8, with previews from February 1.

It is hardly surprising that the production is not as the title might suggest, works in some sort of delayed idiom, like the radio and television versions of the name, does not come from Australia, where last year's collected awards for best literary representation went to author Steve J. Spears and its main actor Gordon Chater, and it is not a Birdseye view of history, as it is probably the most recent transvestite elocution performance by a teacher who finds himself unemployed by his Christianity committed to a hospital tour to meet the criminally insane.

But the evening has been discussed at length since it has attracted so much attention from American tourists in Melbourne last summer—it needs to be added that no Australian play of the 1970s has had such success in homes or abroad—more interest has been aroused than Broadway production is also scheduled, as is a tour of Western Europe. The entire two-hour evening is a monologue in which one occasionally naked man addresses the other 19 men others, in somewhat remarkable achievement for a playwright just 24 when ranklin first opened.

The play has also radically changed the life of its star, now that he is the star of Chater as well as of the man, Gordon Chater, is an English actor who has been resident in Australia since the end of the 1960s. After a long and versatile career in theatre, film and television, he had more or less decided by the early 1970s to

abandon acting in favour of setting up restaurants, and I started a more first-class and secure business there as here. Along came Franklin and Mr Chater is now back in the theatre not only as an actor but also as a director of the theatre. I was a member and a member of the theatre board of the Australia Council.

An accountant's son, he went up to Cambridge to read medicine.

In 1939 I remember being a member of Sydney's Rylands production of *Trailblaze and Cresida* and deciding more or less then and there that I was going to be an actor instead of a doctor - but then came the war which I spent largely scrubbing latrines and at the end of it I was in Singapore when they gave me my demob leave. I really wanted to go from there to have a look at Shanghai, but I got very drunk the night before we were due to sail and I got ill. My friend, Alf, and that was going to Fremantle so I've been in Australia more or less ever since.

"I was bowled over by my first sight of Sydney: seeing that blue harbour and the bright sunlight on a summer day. I thought, first, that's the place. At first they said I was too English to get any work as an actor but then there was a radio play in which I was cast as an opal digger and I realized I'd have to do something about it. I was sitting in a bus station watching people talk and it suddenly dawned on me that Aus-

Italians never move their upper lips which is why they sound like they're laughing. After that was all right, though I still got a lot of English parts over there—three years in *Worm's Eye View*, nearly four in *Seagulls Over Sorrento*".

But he had to be went into revue, and then played the 75-year-old father in the first really successful local situation comedy series not based on an English original:

"I was in it during that period of almost total unemployment which was when I went into restaurants, because I could make a thousand dollars a week by just finding a site and a good chef, opening up and then standing around smiling at and listening to the complaints: after about three months I'd sell up and do the whole thing again somewhere else".

Cher's return to the theatre

In *Cherilyn Franklin* came on in August 1976 when the play first opened at the Nimrod in Sydney, a subsidized 700-seat converted silk factory from where it moved to Melbourne and then a nine-month tour of the rest of Australia.

The Americans who came to see it expecting a biennial treat were generally very relieved to find it was about bigotry and loneliness and sex, though one or two complained a bit: it's a very harrowing story, and it's a little bit exhausting though. I've done it now 380 times. Emily Williams read it when they first offered it to me and said I'd

be mad to turn it down, and knowing all he knows about sold it at that more or less decided me.

"I'd done a one-man show before, about the Duke of Windsor at 79 going through a waxworks display of his life. I've recently been offered *Frank and Ernest* which is not there which I may well go back to when all this is over."

What happens if it's a failure here?

"That's something I don't think about; it's non-transferable. It may well be that we don't get the same response, though after 16 months of acclaim and all those awards it would be awful to close here in a week. I believe this is an international play and that it should work anywhere in the world; we certainly aren't making any changes, because to do that would be as ludicrous as changing *Tennessee Williams's* title into *A Streetcar Named Desire*."

"The play has an abrasive, gutsy quality which I don't think London audiences are very used to, but then nor were Sydney audiences either: don't forget they're still getting roughs Fairbank nose and *My Darling Clementine* at the House. But in Adelaide we took more money than *Irene* and believe me that takes some doing in Adelaide. What's unique here is I think that it's a one-man show without being a recital or read play. It's very definitely a play."

Sheridan Morley

[illegible]

... du Dante (*Farrando quasi Gonzales*)
 ... Nurell in F. Op. 31
 ... chanted on the Rock
 ... in F. Op. 100
 ... 2.00, 5.00, 7.50, 8.00
 ... C. Bashi, Victor de Grèce; Strauss; Hef.
 ... Songs by
 ... Musical & Church; Hef., by Spontini &
 ... Hef.; Hef. by Verdi & songs
 ... Der Silbersee (1st Lond. perf.)
 ... Schumann's Poetions. Op. 2
 ... Cieringham, Victoria at Exhibition
 ... Ave; Legend of the Veil
 ... Berlin; Sinf. Orq. of Jena
 ... Program Events
 ... programme of famous Victorian songs
 ... 2.00 FALL OFFERS SOLD.
 ... Combs. Client Series Harold Holt Ltd.
 ... by Owens, Viviani, Bach, Carulli,
 ... Branner, ...
 ... £1.50, £1.00, 60¢
 ... DAY NEXT, 22 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.
 ... ROTH presents
PÖRTUGHEIS
 BRAHM
 RAHMS
 MUSSORGSKI
 Office 021-675 2131 & Agents.
 ... RTUARY at 7.30 p.m.
 ... ENTERTAINMENT
NONARDT
 ... chard
 ... Richard, Forcay, Bach
 ... 021-675 2131 & Agents
 ... Allied Artists
OF SURREY
DND SINGERS
 ... ROSE POLE (CELLO)
 ... BERS, NICHOLAS CONRAN
 ... And percussion,
 ... ne and brass.
 ... full orchestra.
 ... ncy, in London
 ... ANUARY, 7.30 p.m.
 ... WITH SQUARE

Conductor: CH
SUNDAY, 12 FEB
Violin Concerto in E
Violin Concerto No. 1
Violin Concerto in D
ROYAL PHILHAR
SUNDAY, 26 FEB
Violin Concerto No. 4
Symphonie Espagnole
Violin Concerto in D
LONDON PHILHAR
Tickets: 80p, £1.50, £2.25, £2.75, £3.50
£1213

RAYMOND GURRAY presents WEDNESDAY
JOHANN STRAUSS
LONDON CO
JOHANN STRAUSS
Directed from the
BEARLYN HILL SMITH soprano
Walter Rial Webb, baritone
Gloria Gakop, Champagne Flute, Piccolo
Gloria Gakop, Champagne Flute, Piccolo
Gloria Gakop, Champagne Flute, Piccolo
Tickets: 50p, 90p, £1.50, £2.50, £3.50

ST. JOHN'S, Smith Square.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
1678
L'ESTRO ARMONICO
Directed from the violin
Concertos for two mandolins:
two violins a
£1.25, £1.75, £2.25, £2.75, £3.50
97 Twickenham Avenue, London W6
Presented by 'The Vividist' Society
in association with the Marlin

ARLES DUTON BACH
in G minor .. BRUCH
..... BRAHMS
MONIC ORCHESTRA
.....
in D MOZART
..... LALO
minor SIBELIUS
MONIC ORCHESTRA
\$3.50, \$2.00, From Box Office (01-58)
id Agents.

WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.
STRAUSS GALA
CONCERT ORCHESTRA
SUO DANCERS in Costume
de violla by JACQ ROTHSTEIN
ERALDINE STEPHENSON, Choreographer
for Valse, Ottn Serpna, Rndogrey March,
and Morning Pages Valse, Spert
from Die Fledermaus, etc.
\$2.00 Box Seat (01-589 2212) & Agents.

SUNDAY, 29 JANUARY, at 7.30
VIVALDI
1978
NICO ENSEMBLE
by DEREK SOLOMONS
soprano recorder; solo viola;
and two cella.
\$2.75 From The Vivaldi Society
W.C. 01-885 5266 and 01-546 0530.
International Club.

Autumnal

Alfred Brendel
Queen Elizabeth Hall

tanley Sadie

the curious capacity of composers whom the gods have made, still young, a style that is plausibly re-acknowledged is well exemplified by Schubert's last three piano sonatas. He wrote them when was 51, an age when Beethoven was still in his prime and when Haydn had been scarcely anything of it.

True, they are not the terse, concentrated and probably monumental pieces one associates with a composer's rarefied late thought, but still they possess new and autumnal tone in air coolly expansive contemplation. At least, so it seems in the hindsight offered by knowledge that he died a few months after writing

Alfred Brendel, who offered three in the last of his Schubert recitals of the present July Schubert series, takes an autumnal view of them; surely there are two basic ways of approaching the music: to attempt to draw it together by ceasing as far as possible its mus; or to revel in those mus, treating them as specifically attractive features that should be brought to the attention.

view

Mr Brendel's approach is the second of those. He justifies it by the poetic insights of his playing. But the critic might reckon it unwise or expressively imprudent to play the opening statement of the slow movement of the A major Sonata (to cite just one example) quite so freely; the phrase is, after all, going to be heard several times a measure, and a player may prefer to husband his resources. Nor would many pianists be quite as generous in their use of momentary hesitations to heighten the impact of a striking harmonic twist; there are rather a lot of twists in these sonatas. And the slow tempos Mr Brendel favours for lyrical second-subject material could be thought to be pressing home a contrast already implicit in the music, and to be as well as running the risk of making the music seem episodic.

He tends to play the loud music faster than the soft; there are reasons to think that Schubert may have expected something of the kind, but perhaps not quite so consistently.

Mr Brendel's awareness of the music, then, is always manifest. Only a pianist of such consistent intelligence and perception could play like this. Just occasionally I wished he would respond rather less, and let the music speak more simply and directly. But the infinite beauty and intensity offered in rewards, and did not cloy.

Holograph

In 1951, at approximately 8.45 am outside a dress shop in Eastbourne, I saw a man furtively sketching the clothes dummy lying abandoned and unclad in the shop's window. I was reminded of this obscure event by consecutively seeing William Worell's 'The Hologram' of paintings at Canada House, and the *Light Fantastic* 2 holograms at the Royal Academy. The memory jog occurred partly because of naked women, and partly because my feelings about the museum were the same: the two exhibitions were very, and similarly mixed.

The first *Light Fantastic* was an enormous success. The second is larger, and one of the additions is an image of a girl with a bare top, looking every inch like a shop-window dummy. I felt at the time of the first show that at present holography has little to do with art, and as a painter I can't really revise that opinion. The method of production in apparently three dimensions it is very intriguing, but it has a long way to go before it can vie with photography as an art form. Technical skill is less than the model itself, and the *reproductions* of Kolar stage designs demonstrate that a hologram of a model of a set (with its theatrical inappropriateness) is more effective than the model itself. That is however the first use of holography which I have found to be both interesting and

and homily

homilies which accompany a few of the paintings.

One of these, *Heart of Darkness*: *Chez Gargantua*, was pronounced by a reviewer in *The New York Times* as "the most night club, Part of the adjoining text recalls a newspaper cutting concerning the event which "told of Pierre La Marche, a young Knight of Columbus man. When the Knight of Columbus parade was cancelled that evening he stopped in for a drink with his brother *Chez Gargantua* out of curiosity because of an earlier shooting there. It seems like divine justice that such scholastic and dangerous curiosity leads to such retribution for the bar was a *topless one*." Back to the Eastbourne artist with no access to nude women, and the holocaust winter breasts like *placid* and *gutter* sundae. Added to which is the knowledge that Kurelek, a fragile personality and a sensitive and loving craftsman, was the Catholic faith to make—via the preserved his sanity—via the Catholic faith and a strong moral ethic.

At the Morley Gallery (61 Westminster Bridge Road) there is an exhibition of works by John Epsteine and Ted Hamann. The first best Epsteine's series of "Fontomre's Annunciation, and would also recommend another series, this time in watercolour, by René Hague at the New Art Centre.

David Jones is a biography of David Jones, and produces land-

BEAUX ARTS TRIO
*Trios by Haydn,
Dvorak & Brahms*
January 25, 29 & 31
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

**ROYAL
ACADEMY
OF MUSIC**
MARVELLOUS ROAD
LONDON NW1 5MT
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
CONCERT
TUESDAY, 30 JANUARY 1978
at 7.30
SIR JACK LYONS THEATRE
Haydn: Symphony No. 85 in B flat
"Le Règne"
Britten: Dramatic Cantata "The Young
Op. 93, Sobieski Alkan: Traité
Beethoven: Symphony No. 1 in C.
Ibéri: Divertissement
Coeuranger
NICHOLAS BRAITHWAITE HALL

**LONDON PHILHARMONIC
ORCHESTRA**
Vacancies exist for
No. 2 CELLO
E FLAT CLARINET
Applications for positions in the
Chamber Section of Directors, LPO Ltd.,
55 Welbeck St., London, W1M 7HE.

**LUNCETIME MUSIC
IN THE CITY**
Bishopsgate 354 Bishopsgate, EC2
Admission 50p
Tuesday, 24, 29, 30, 31 JAN. 1.50
ROYAL ACADEMY OF MUSIC
CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
Conductor **NICHOLAS BRAITHWAITE**
Allison: Concerto for oboe and orchestra
Mozart: Minuet for a Symphony 8, 409
Director: J. D. R. 1978

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Remonition

O'Haitink stival Hall

rry Millington

RADIO

It is impossible not to regard Mahler's Ninth Symphony as biographical, however much might wish to fight shy of using anything like a premonition on it. Whether or not likes to hear in it the beats he composer's failing heart, he can be no denying, and could be fatal for any conductor to disregard the fact, the symphony is charged with Mahler's premonitions of death. If there be any joy, or sheer pleasure in life, it is seen only in the calm of death.

Hendrik Hainink's interpretation of the Festival Hall on Monday showed awareness of that. His approach to the work was neither the stolid nor indulgent one presented by conductors, but one which things much as they were, even when they were the dreary details of everyday life. Thus Mahler's swoopingimenti were anything but moderate, the wild abandon of Rondo Burleske's closing was relatively self-contained and the moment of dissolution in the same movement where sarcasm gives way to mood of resignation that prevail over the symphony.

obony's final movement, passed almost for nothing, Mr Haitink did not receive adequate support from his orchestra, the London Philharmonic; all too often there were unpleasant noises, and fumbling that distracted the attention.

A passage where Mr Haitink must have insisted on precision of ensemble was the opening of the second movement Ländler. Short, sharp phrases brought to mind the dancing of clockwork figures; if that was the intention it was a neat way of suggesting the element of disorderly behind that rustic scene. On the other hand, some of the savagery of the Rondo Bruckes's swirling counterpoint was lost because of untidy orchestral playing.

Yet if there were doubts about those three movements, the final Adagio seemed to demand amendment, not only because it was more successful in its own right, but also because it drew together the interpretation of the entire symphony. A not too *molto* *adagio* enabled Mr Haitink to sustain interest in the spare-textured interludes, while the noble main theme itself grew in intensity and conviction as the movement progressed.

Yet the performance as a whole, some Mahlerians may not have been satisfied; perhaps that is one of the hazards facing the conductor of this most subjective of composers.

that, when it can produce very large objects in realistic colour (at the moment it does neither), it will be feasible to keep exact records of everything—buildings, people, culture—so that people do not greatly excite me.

Instead it suggests a kind of Philip K. Dick scenario, where the surface of the world is destroyed by lasers (the beams continually feed and create holograms), though now they can be reconstructed with a white light), and the only way survivors/spacemen have of knowing what went on before is by reviewing holograms stored underground. However, when the time comes to be responsible for the show) say they were there at that before the end of 1984 it will be commonplace to have holograms in the same way we have photographs in our homes today" and that "they are particularly interested in bringing photography into the fields of art and entertainment", I am sure they will find a sympathetic response in some quarters.

William Kurelek is a Canadian painter and illustrator who, largely recently, and whose work is deeply concerned with a loving, sometimes sentimental, depiction of rural Canada: alarming, small-town life. The surface of the paintings is often lifeless, as illustrations—particularly in children's books—they make interesting and informative images. Indeed, in many ways it is an excellent exhibition to take children to, until one is confronted with the implications of the typewritten

landscapes and sunlamps that owe their existence to the eye and are not altogether in their own right.

In preferring these modest images to everything else this week, I turn to Pontormo's work. Written in 1547, about the time when Michelangelo was painting the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel (no doubt unaided), the fact that nowadays art so seldom looks within spiriting the distance of such complexity.

He will paint, for instance, wherever they fit his purpose, glares, night, with fires or other lights, the air, clouds, landscapes with towns in the distance, and, by the way, buildings with many varied systems of perspective, animals of many sorts and many colours, and a multitude of other things. Sometimes a scene by him will include things that nature never produced. . . . Furthermore, there are the various modes of working—fresco, oil, tempera, pastels—all which require great practice in handling so many different pigments. . . . But what I said about the painter being overbold is proved by his presumption to surpass nature in trying to infuse spirit into a figure and make it look alive while painting it on a flat surface. For had he but considered that when God created on the wall he made him talk it better, thus easier to make him alive, the painter would not have chosen so difficult a subject.

Which, I suppose, brings us back to holograms.

Paddy Kitchen

ponsored by the City Music Society

PROVINCIAL FILM FESTIVAL **Friday, 7.30**
7.30 p.m. **Programme:** *Sorcerer's Apprentice*
8.45 p.m. **Programme:** *Rehearsal for Marriage*
9.15 p.m. **Programme:** *Rehearsal for Marriage*
9.45 p.m. **Programme:** *Rehearsal for Marriage*

OPERA ITALIANA incorporating
THE ROSSINI SOCIETY announces

THE ROSSINI SOCIETY IN FEBRUARY

Friday, 12th February, at 6 o'clock
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Saturday, 13th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Sunday, 14th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Monday, 15th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Tuesday, 16th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Wednesday, 17th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Thursday, 18th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Friday, 19th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Saturday, 20th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Sunday, 21st February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Monday, 22nd February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Tuesday, 23rd February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Wednesday, 24th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Thursday, 25th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Friday, 26th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Saturday, 27th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Sunday, 28th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Monday, 29th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Tuesday, 30th February, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Wednesday, 1st March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Thursday, 2nd March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Friday, 3rd March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Saturday, 4th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Sunday, 5th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Monday, 6th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Tuesday, 7th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Wednesday, 8th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Thursday, 9th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Friday, 10th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Saturday, 11th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Sunday, 12th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Monday, 13th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Tuesday, 14th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Wednesday, 15th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Thursday, 16th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Friday, 17th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Saturday, 18th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Sunday, 19th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Monday, 20th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Tuesday, 21st March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Wednesday, 22nd March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Thursday, 23rd March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Friday, 24th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Saturday, 25th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Sunday, 26th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Monday, 27th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Tuesday, 28th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Wednesday, 29th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Thursday, 30th March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*
Friday, 31st March, at 7.45 p.m.
The Royal Academy of Arts, John Adam
Director, W.C. Cantata for strings
and piano solo. *King of the Spaw.*

THE LONDON SYMPHONY CHORUS
Director Richard Hickox, has some
vacancies for four amateur singers
to perform in the following programmes:
Friday, 12th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Saturday, 13th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 14th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Monday, 15th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 16th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Wednesday, 17th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Thursday, 18th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Friday, 19th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Saturday, 20th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 21st February, at 7.45 p.m.
Monday, 22nd February, at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 23rd February, at 7.45 p.m.
Wednesday, 24th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Thursday, 25th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Friday, 26th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Saturday, 27th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 28th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Monday, 29th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 30th February, at 7.45 p.m.
Wednesday, 1st March, at 7.45 p.m.
Thursday, 2nd March, at 7.45 p.m.
Friday, 3rd March, at 7.45 p.m.
Saturday, 4th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 5th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Monday, 6th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 7th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Wednesday, 8th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Thursday, 9th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Friday, 10th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Saturday, 11th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 12th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Monday, 13th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 14th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Wednesday, 15th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Thursday, 16th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Friday, 17th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Saturday, 18th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 19th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Monday, 20th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 21st March, at 7.45 p.m.
Wednesday, 22nd March, at 7.45 p.m.
Thursday, 23rd March, at 7.45 p.m.
Friday, 24th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Saturday, 25th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Sunday, 26th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Monday, 27th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Tuesday, 28th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Wednesday, 29th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Thursday, 30th March, at 7.45 p.m.
Friday, 31st March, at 7.45 p.m.

English National
Music Director: David

LEAD

A new opera company, to be based
in being formed under the auspices
The Company will give its first per
Applications are invited for the pos
symphony

THOMAS BARKER
OF BATH
S Duke St. Bath, S.W.1.
Mon-Fri. 10.5-3.30
Sat. 10-1.
MARCH 21.

HAYWARD LEVY South Bank
S.B. (Arts Council) DADA and
Surrealism. Mon. 27 March.
28 March. Ed. 25p Mon. 6-8
Tue-Thurs. Mon. 6-8. Tue-Thurs.
Mon. 10-12. Sat. 10-6. Sun. 12-6.
Details of lectures from Cells
20 Chair: 712 9495. Posters by
written application only.

LEVEYRE GALLERY. An Exhibition of
Impression 1880 and 2000. CERTIFY
PAINTINGS. Wednes. 10-5. Sat.
10-1. at 30 Bruton St., London.
W.1. Tel. 01-933 1572.

MARLBOROUGH & Albemarle St.
S.B.1. FRANCES BACON & FRANK
AMERSCAMP. Recent work. Dec-
20 Chair: 712 9495. Mon-Fri. 10-5.30.
Sat. 10-12.30.


NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY. Lon-
don. W.2. 01-932 3511. SIR
THOMAS MORE, 1477-1535. A vivid
and thoughtful combination of his life
and times. Sat. 10-6. Mon-Fri. 10-5.
Sun. 10-6. Sat. 10-6.

NEWSPORN GALLERY. 1001 Selected
Original Prints. Until January 25th.
Mon-Fri. 10-6. Sat. 10-1. Mon-Fri.
Fri. 0-5.30. Sat. 10-1.

Opera North
id Lloyd-Jones

DER

at the Grand Theatre, Leeds,
of English National Opera.
Performances in November 1978.
of Leader of the full strength
for the Company's opera
or of its own orchestral.
leading highly desirable. Salary
candidates should apply by
terior, English National Opera
Martin's Lane, London
their careers.



As you might expect, of Times readers are mobile have taken the decision to buy months 101,000 of them have they're a lot more likely than to have paid £2,000 or more.


That makes them very in the new and second-hand.


So much so, that ever runs a special feature in its c 'The Car Buyers' Guide'.

This feature also covers readers are 57% more likely as a whole.

So mobilise our resources do some pretty high-speed sales.

For further information Motors Team on: 01-278 9335 Manchester Office on: 061-8-





 a very high proportion

 In fact, 612,000 of them

 by a car, and in the last 12

 bought a new car. And

 the rest of the population

 for a car—new or used.

 good potential customers

 car market.

 Thursday The Times

 classified columns called

 rs car hire which Times

 o use than the population


 ings and you'll probably

 elling.

 on, contact The Times

 1, and in the North call our

 34 1234.



[illegible]

WIGMORE HALL MONDAY NEXT, 23 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.
ROLAND J. P. ROTH presents

ALBERTO PORTUGHEIS

Piano

Suite in a minor RAMEAU
Waltzes, Op. 39 BRAHMS
Pictures at an Exhibition MUSSORGSKY

£2.00, £1.50, £1.00, 600 from Box Office (01-675 2111) & Agents.

THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.

WIGMORE MASTER CONCERT

GUSTAV LEONHARDT

harpischord

Works by Froberger, Kuhnau, Forquersay, Bach

£1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50 from Box Office (01-935 2141) & Agents

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY
PLAYERS AND SINGERS

MARTIN HUGHES (PIANO) ROSE POPE (CELLO)
Conductors: SERGEANT JOHN FORBES, RUSSELL COCHRAN
Vocalists: GREGG AUSTON, for piano, wind and percussion,
and also the Harp; "Easmon" for choir and brass.
Instrumental Forces: "Chaconne" for orchestra
Soloists: Eak Angelich, for choir and small orchestra.
Specialist Solo Concert:
..... W. First performance in London.

WEDNESDAY, 25th JANUARY, 7.30 p.m.
ST. JOHN'S, SMITH SQUARE

Director, Joanna Breeden
Tickets: \$2.50, \$1.50, \$1.00 (students 75¢)
Ext. 6781, Tel. 876-4298 or 0483-71281

BEAUX ARTS TRIO
Trios by Haydn,
Dvorak & Brahms
January 25, 29 & 31
QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

ST. JOHN'S SMITH SQUARE, Tuesday
24 Jan at 7.30 p.m.
CAPRICORN
Memor Charles Quinlan, Schubert Octet,
C. 5.00, \$1.50 (youth), 80¢
unreserved, 01-249 3125 or at door.

CINEMAS
ODEON, ST. MARTIN'S LANE, Home
Cinema Div.
C.U. Direct movies, THE CHASE
C.U. Direct For info 240 0071, Box
Office 240 0071, San Francisco Div.
01-249 3125


[illegible][illegible][illegible]

English National Opera North

Music Director: David Lloyd-Jones

LEADER

A new opera company, to be based at the Grand Theatre, Leeds, is being formed under the auspices of English National Opera. The Company will give its first performances in November 1978. Applications are invited for the post of Leader of the full strength symphony orchestra which will play for the Company's opera performances and also give a number of its own orchestral concerts. Previous experience of leading highly desirable. Salary by negotiation. Suitably qualified candidates should apply by January 30 1978 to: The Administrator, English National Opera North, c/o The London Coliseum, St. Martin's Lane, London WC2H 4ES, with brief details of their careers.


 **ROYAL ALBERT HALL**
Kensington. SW7 2AP

GENERAL MANAGERS:
ANTHONY & GILBERT

BOX OFFICE: Monday to Saturday, open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
(01-589 8212). Sunday: open for bookings for that day only.

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents

TOMORROW at 7.30



“OVERTURE, “BARBER OF SEVILLE” ROSSINI
FANTASIA ON “GREENSLEEVES” .. VAUGHAN WILLIAMS
PIANO CONCERTO in A minor GRIEG
“NEW WORLD” SYMPHONY DVORAK

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
ALUN FRANCIS
NATASHA TADSON

Tickets: 20s, £1.00, £1.50, £2.00, £2.50, £3.00 (01-589 8212).

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
SUNDAY, 5 FEBRUARY, at 7.30

TCHAIKOVSKY

Nutcracker Suite Piano Concerto No. 1
Romeo and Juliet Swan Lake

OVERTURE '1812' Cannon and Mortar Effects

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
VILEM TAUSKY ALLAN SCHILLER

Tickets: Sop. \$1.00, \$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.50, \$5.00 from Hall (01-589 8212)
 & Agents

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
by arrangement with MARCEL HOLT LTD..

ITZHAK PERLMAN
Conductor: **CHARLES DUTOIT**
SUNDAY, 12 FEBRUARY, at 7.30 p.m.

Violin Concerto in E BACH
Violin Concerto No. 1 in G minor .. BRUCH
Violin Concerto in D BRAHMS

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA

Violin Concerto No. 4 in D MOZART
Symphonie Espagnole LALO
Violin Concerto in D minor SIBELIUS
LONDON PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
 Tickets: Sop. £1.50, £2.30, £3.75, £3.80, £4.00. From Box Office (01-589 8213) and Agents.

RAYMOND GUBRAY presents WEDNESDAY, 22 FEBRUARY at 7.30 p.m.

JOHANN STRAUSS GALA
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
JOHANN STRAUSS DANCERS in Costume
 Directed from the violin by JACQ ROYSTEIN

GERALDINE STEPHENSON Choreographer
 Emmerke Walls, Chas. Sower, Roderick March,
 Victor Brit. Wall, Annen Pooka, Plickard Pook,
 Olmaga Gallo, Champagne Pook, Morning Pooka Walls, Sport
 Gallo, Slick Pook, Plickard Pook, Plickard Pook, Plickard Pook

MARILYN HILL SMITH Soprano
 Victor Brit. Wall, Annen Pooka, Plickard Pook,
 Olmaga Gallo, Champagne Pook, Morning Pooka Walls, Sport
 Gallo, Slick Pook, Plickard Pook, Plickard Pook, Plickard Pook

ST. JOHN'S, Smith Square. SUNDAY, 29 JANUARY, at 7.30

HAPPY BIRTHDAY VIVALDI
1678-1978

L'ESTRO ARMONICO ENSEMBLE
Directed from the violin by **DEREK SOLOMONS**

Concertos for two mandolins ; soprano recorder ; solo viola ;
two violins and cello

£1.25, £1.75, £2.25, £2.75 from The Vivaldi Society
67 Tynford Avenue, London, N.2. 01-885 5256 and 01-346 0330.

Presented by The Vivaldi Society,
in association with the Martini International Club.

ART GALLERIES **ART GALLERIES**

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS
1. **LEONARDO DA VINCI Anatomical**
drawings. Until 27 March. Ad. £1.
2. **LIGHT FANTASTIC**, an exhibition
of holography. Until 27 March. Ad.
free.
3. **ROBERT MOTHERWELL**, retrospec-
tive exhibition. Until 27 March. Ad.
free.
4. **GUSTAVE COURMET 1819-1877**,
an exhibition. Until 27 March. Ad.
free.
5. **THE LONDON SCHOOL OF SCULPTURE**,
an exhibition. Until 27 March. Ad.
free.
6. **ESCAPE 1810-30 Urban Themes**
in American, German and British Art
of the Nineteenth Century. Until 19
March. Ad. Free.

SERPENTINE GALLERY, Kensington
Gals. W.3, Art. Council. Jac. £1.
SMITH paintings and drawings
1940-1950. Until 19 Feb. Daily 10-5.
Ad. free.

WEINER and DOUWMA Ltd
93, CP Russell St. WC1. 01-436 4955
FOREIGN PRINTS AND MAPS
Until 4th February Catalogue £1.60.
Mon.-Fri. 10-6. Sat. 10.00-1.00.

NOTICE
All advertisements are subject
to acceptance by the Executive
Committee of Times Newspapers Limited,
London, which are available
on request.

**Your car will go
faster when it's in
the right place.**

As you might expect, a very high proportion of Times readers are mobile. In fact, 612,000 of them have taken the decision to buy a car, and in the last 12 months 101,000 of them have bought a new car. And they're a lot more likely than the rest of the population to have paid £2,000 or more for a car – new or used.


That makes them very good potential customers in the new and second-hand car market.

So much so, that every Thursday The Times runs a special feature in its classified columns called 'The Car Buyers Guide'.

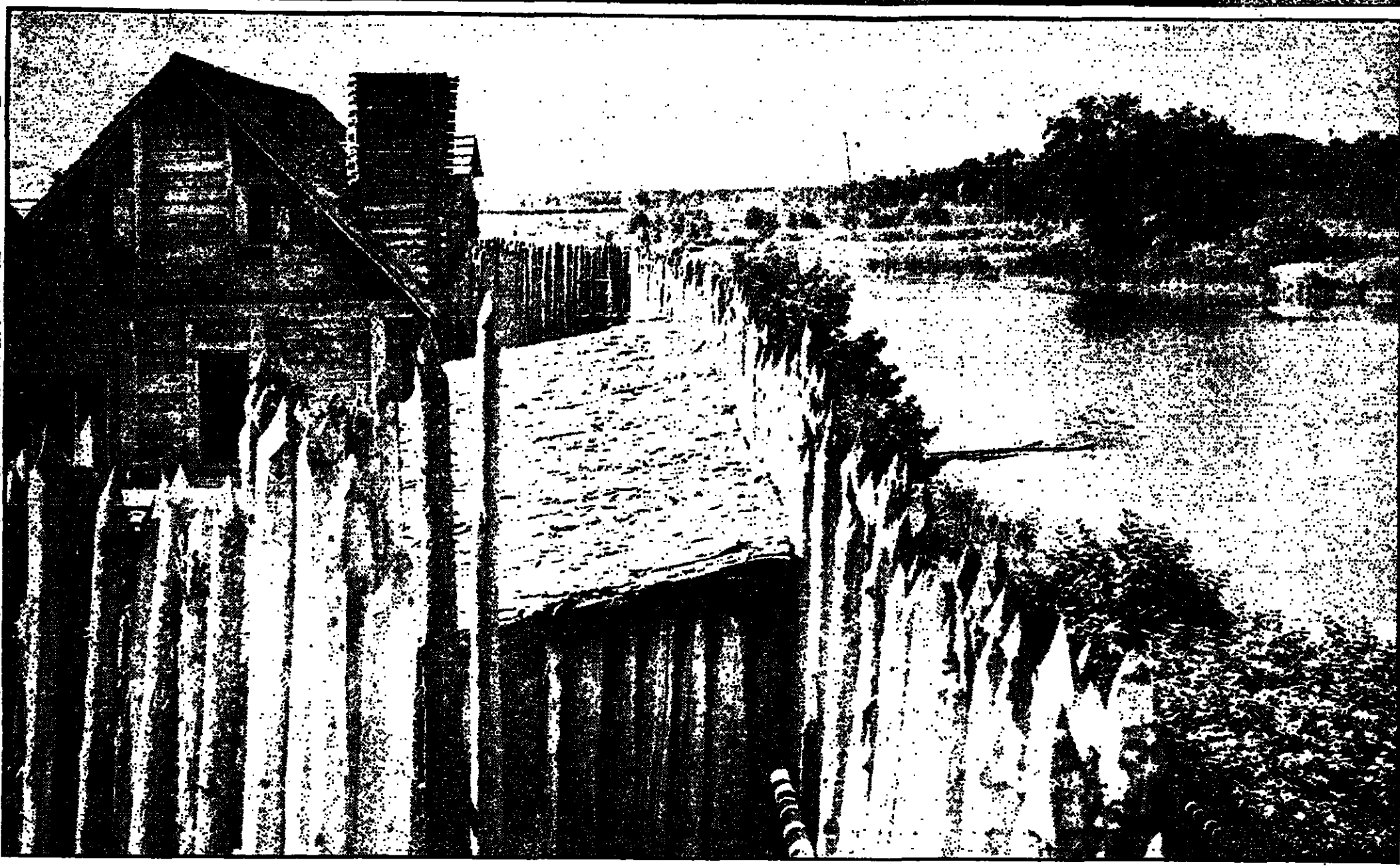
This feature also covers car hire which Times readers are 57% more likely to use than the population as a whole.

So mobilise our resources and you'll probably do some pretty high-speed selling.

For further information, contact The Times Motors Team on: 01-278 9351, and in the North call our Manchester Office on: 061-834 1234.



The Times logo is a decorative crest featuring a crown at the top. The words "THE TIMES" are prominently displayed in the center in a bold, serif font. To the left of the text, the word "LONDON" is written vertically, and to the right, "ESTD 1785" is written vertically. The entire logo is framed by ornate, leafy scrollwork.



The reconstructed Jesuit mission of 1639 at St. Marie among the Hurons, in Canada's northern wilderness

Travel

Joining the wild bunch

Swiftly and expertly the man and woman unloaded the canoe from their car roof-rack and carried it down to the water's edge. Within less than five minutes they had stowed rucksacks and camping and fishing equipment aboard. Apart from a cheery "Good morning" as they came in to the forester's office to register their departure, they barely exchanged a word before paddling off into the silent, sunlit forest.

They might have been setting out for a day's picnic, but in fact they did not expect to return for a fortnight. During that time they would see no roads, traffic or buildings, and quite possibly more bears than people. Apart from such modern comforts as sleeping bags and a primus stove, they would be living in much the same way as trappers three centuries ago, and would not be able to rely on instant assistance if they ran into trouble.

Algonquin provincial park, less than 150 miles north of Toronto, is still authentic Canadian wilderness. Highway 60, which connects Ottawa with the main road between northern and southern Ontario, runs for about 40 miles through the south-west corner of the park. Beyond that are only forest, rivers, lakes and an abundance of wildlife.

Twenty years ago, when I first returned to the country

of my birth, the notion of Europeans taking holidays in North America barely existed. Tourism was almost exclusively a one-way traffic. When we waved goodbye to friends and relatives on the Pierhead at Liverpool and headed out into the cold Atlantic, we were emigrants, as my parents had been a generation earlier; the solitude of the St. Lawrence estuary and the "foreign-ness" of Montreal a week later only emphasized the decisiveness of our break with the past.

Aboard the Empress of France there was, it is true, a sizeable contingent of grandparents. For many years past, and still today, VFR (visiting friends and relatives) traffic has formed a large proportion of the total number of visitors from Britain and other parts of Europe to Canada. Only recently have living costs and standards on both sides of the Atlantic come close enough to together to bring straightforward holidays in North America within reach of European pockets.

Canada has, on the whole, been rather slower to realize this than the United States. Traditionally tourists have come overwhelmingly from south of the border, streaming north in their cars during the summer and autumn months in search of sport (shooting and fishing), space and solitude and, in the

winter skiing. The different requirements of Europeans who arrive without their own transport and in need of guides and organizers have scarcely been recognized; the counterpart to the sort of package tour that a Canadian can take in Europe simply does not exist.

The stock response to criticisms on this score is that Canada, because of its huge size, is a very different proposition and that, in any case, the airlines, railways and long-distance bus companies do offer concessional deals. But the sort of coast-to-coast tour advertised—seven cities and two national parks in 12 days—is likely to prove an exhausting, expensive and frustrating exercise. Far better to choose one corner of the country and savour its particular attractions.

For example from Toronto which has long since shed its staid provincialism and is now a lively and booming city, it is a comfortable 24-hour drive to Huntsville, which describes itself as the "capital" of the Muskoka region. About half way there the flat farmlands of southern Ontario give way to the edges of the Canadian Shield, the thousands of square miles of ancient granite that stretch north to the Arctic, and the scenery abruptly changes to a hilly honeycomb of water, rock and trees.

It was the Americans who first "discovered" Muskoka towards the end of the last century, then still an untracked and largely unmapped wilderness teeming with fish and game. Today it is surprisingly English in atmosphere; on an afternoon boat trip from Windermere on Lake Rousseau, we were struck by the number of Union Jacks, as opposed to Canadian flags, flying from the palatial summer "cottages" which seemed to crown every promontory.

Muskoka has changed surprisingly little since I first fell under its spell. In the height of summer it is invaded by tens of thousands of visitors; Georgian Bay and the larger lakes are crammed with yachts, and on hot summer afternoons the stillness is shattered by hundreds of powerboats towing water-skiers; the forest has been cleared to make room for golf courses; a fishing permit costs as little as \$10 (about £6), and for \$150 (£85) you may, with some luck and a good swim, bag a moose (one only per permit) and acquire the prestige of having the carcass draped across your car roof-rack on your journey back south.

Yet it is still possible to lose yourself for days on end, on the shores of a steel blue lake encircled by pine forests. Avoid-

ing the hamburger stalls and jukebox bars, you can encounter the same wilderness that confronted the early voyageurs. Something of the atmosphere of the first settlements can be gained from a visit to the engaging pioneer village, just outside Huntsville, or, more poignantly, the reconstructed mission of Sainte Marie among the Hurons, a strange doomed little Jesuit outpost which survived for a mere 11 years before succumbing to an Iroquois onslaught in 1650.

Many Canadians affect to despise Muskoka, as the British might regard Cornwall or the Costa Brava. The real wilderness, they insist, is far beyond, round the northern edges of the Great Lakes.

This area is beginning to be opened up to ordinary tourists, as opposed to ambitious fishermen and hunters who are prepared to rough it. A number of "hospitality lodges" have been approved by the provincial government, although there is still a dearth of hotels and an abundance of blackfly and mosquitoes. More than 90 per cent of Canadians still live within 100 miles of the United States border; in the vast reaches of the north you are uncomfortably, if fascinatingly, close to the unknown.

John Young

Gardening

Tomatoes: a red revolution

Generally flower seed novelties are fairly striking improvements upon, or markedly different from, our old favourites. But with the new varieties of vegetables the differences are often more subtle, and unless one is growing a new variety alongside the variety we have relied upon in years past, the difference is not always readily apparent. The improvement may consist of slightly higher yields; maybe the new variety matures more quickly or perhaps as in the case of some of the new lettuce varieties, it is in good condition for a long period before bolting to seed.

Or it may be that the new variety is resistant to diseases as for example in tomatoes we have 'Supercross' (5)—See key rights for 'suppliers'—not a novelty this year but unknown I am sure to most of my readers. It is claimed to be the first tomato that has tolerance to the tobacco mosaic virus, immunity from all known strains of cladosporium disease and does not suffer from the "greenback" trouble.

It also produces fruits about the size of that ancient variety 'Money-maker' which should have been pensioned off years ago but which still appears in catalogues because people are so conservative and unadventurous that they keep on asking for it. All it has in its favour when compared with modern tomatoes is its catchy name, but I suppose it will still be grown when I am long dead and gone.

'Supercross', of course, is for growing under glass, but there are many more F1 hybrids that are a great improvement on 'Money-maker', 'Harbinger', 'Ailsa Craig', and the other varieties that have been around since I was a boy. To grow outdoors we have some fine new tomatoes notably 'Eurocross A' (1, 2, 3, 5) and 'Ronacave' (3, 5).

I have been intrigued to watch the increasing interest being shown in the very large fruited tomatoes. For the life of me I could never understand why the British people have regarded the large tomatoes such as 'Marmande' (1, 4) so popular on the Continent as something rather vulgar and to be disparaged. But they are superb for stuffing; the standard sized, nine to the pound tomato you get in the shops will only really be good as tomatoes for fries—they have too much skin in proportion to flesh. Also we do not serve tomatoes whole in a salad; we slice them, so what is wrong with slicing large tomatoes? We have in addition to 'Marmande', a variety with very good flavour but only for growing outdoors the new 'Red Man' (5) and 'Bragger' (3, 5) both very large. It is claimed that 'Bragger' can produce fruits of up to 2lbs in weight.

My own preference, of course, is in tomatoes for a variety like 'Yellow Perfection' (3, 5) 'Golden Sunrise' (1) or 'Golden Queen' (4). The sweeter flavour I like very much, but many folk, especially the younger generation who have never known anything but the modern red varieties, find them too sweet. As I greatly like a tomato salad with an oil and vinegar dressing, the sweetness of these golden tomatoes is, I find, most acceptable.

There has been much work done with the brassica family—cabbages, in particular, and if you are more fond of cabbage than I am you can have some to cut in the garden every day of the year. In Sutton's catalogue a chart shows how this can be done. Again, in the newcomers we have varieties such as 'Celtic' (1, 2, 4, 5) and 'Hispi' (1, 2, 3, 4, 5), both F1 cabbages for spring sowing; they make tight compact heads and there is virtually no

waste of outer leaves. Being so compact 'Hispi' may be planted closer than ordinary cabbages for summer and autumn cutting. Both varieties stand a long time without wilting. 'Hispi' is the earliest summer cabbage to mature. It may be sown now under glass and it should be ready for cutting in May, June, or sown outdoors in March or April, it should be ready for cutting from July onwards. The variety 'Celtic' sown in spring is ready to cut from December onwards.

As with cabbages, so with lettuces. If you care enough there is a chart in Sutton's catalogue which shows you how you can have a lettuce salad from the garden every day of the year. You would, of course, need a cold or slightly heated greenhouse or frame to keep a supply going during the winter and early spring. Lettuces come in many shapes, sizes and colours. I remember dear old Fred Streeter giving a Dig for Victory lecture at Haslemere in 1940 and telling us how he grew 30 varieties of lettuce so that Lord Leconfield could have a differently coloured salad every day of the month.

Also, as with cabbages, the breeders are working to produce varieties that stand in good condition over a long period and 'Sigmaball' (4), a large hearted slightly crisp lettuce, does just this. For me, of course, the good old 'Webbs Wonderful', a very crisp crackly lettuce still takes a lot of beating and is very slow to bolt to seed. Even the most rabid anti-European Community fanatics must admit that the sorting out of the hundreds of vegetable varieties and their synonyms has proved a boon and a blessing. No longer is it possible for 'Webbs Wonderful' to be sold, as of old, under half a dozen different names. As for new Webbs



Wonderful' is its name and that's that! So too with hundreds of other vegetable varieties and before long they will have sorted them all out. If you are not all that fussy about what type of lettuce you grow I do suggest that you buy a packet of mixed lettuce seed (2, 4) containing an assortment of varieties that take different times to mature so that you can cut lettuce from one sowing over a month or more.

There are, of course, many other new or recently introduced varieties of vegetables. In runner beans we have 'Fry', the white flowered stringless variety and 'Red Knight' (2) the first red flowered stringless runner. Last year being cool and generally rainy, the beans set their pods without difficulty but I am sure from the many reports I have received and from my own experience that white flowered beans set better than red flowered varieties. In French beans 'Tendergreen' (1, 2, 4) is hailed as a worthwhile improvement; it is said to be heavy yielding, stringless, early maturing, also good for freezing.



Wonderful' is its name and that's that! So too with hundreds of other vegetable varieties and before long they will have sorted them all out. If you are not all that fussy about what type of lettuce you grow I do suggest that you buy a packet of mixed lettuce seed (2, 4) containing an assortment of varieties that take different times to mature so that you can cut lettuce from one sowing over a month or more.

There are, of course, many other new or recently introduced varieties of vegetables. In runner beans we have 'Fry', the white flowered stringless variety and 'Red Knight' (2) the first red flowered stringless runner. Last year being cool and generally rainy, the beans set their pods without difficulty but I am sure from the many reports I have received and from my own experience that white flowered beans set better than red flowered varieties. In French beans 'Tendergreen' (1, 2, 4) is hailed as a worthwhile improvement; it is said to be heavy yielding, stringless, early maturing, also good for freezing.

Bridge

Penalty doubles

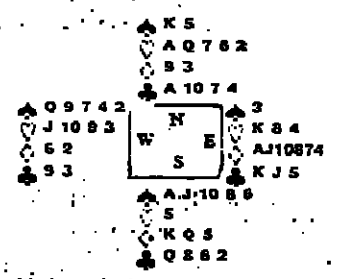
In the distant past when every player used to value his hand by tricks and probable tricks instead of by points he escaped a number of traps into which partners fall every day of the week. His first thought was whether, should his partner promise a couple of tricks, the hand "belonged" to him. Until the adoption of the Milton Work count, the unit for a sure trick was four points (an ace) and not three points (a king), and the bidding was adjusted to fit controls rather than points. The take-out double showed greater strength than is now associated with it, because it could be converted into a penalty double by the partner who held a suitable hand.

In a competitive situation today, you double to show general strength, but not necessarily in expectation of a penalty. If you do not double when you have the chance to disclose 13 or more points your partner will interpret your bid as revealing a hand which is on the weak side. Regrettably, the double is misemployed by the player who places reliance on his points instead of on his tricks and here it is that which highlights the distinction. East-West game; dealer South. North-South were using a weak No trump opening with a weak takeout.

South preferred to rescue into the suit which was more likely to attract a double, and West, with his singleton diamond and two certain tricks in trumps, conveyed his shape and points in the most intelligent way; yet the contract was made with an overtrick. Declarer losing three trumps and one spade. The cause of the disaster was East's failure to take out his partner's double into Two No trumps or Three Clubs because he did not recognize the importance of controls in his partner's hand.

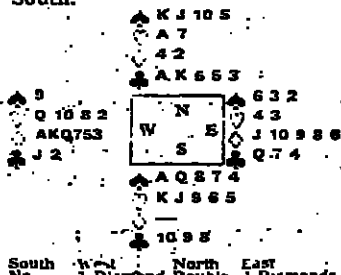
Whenever his partner has opened a defender is justified in doubling an opponent who intervenes, if he has two certain tricks in trumps and a potential trick in an unbid suit. But South is not to bid Four Spades over Four Diamonds, protection in opponent's suit by bidding the appropriate number of No trumps. In the next deal, South had a choice decision; he decided to bid his suit which proved to be a mistake; when North gave a minimum raise, North-South game; East-West 60; dealer West.

Since South could have no doubt that the hand belonged to his side, he was unwise not to choose the certain profit.



from doubling Two Diamonds to the doubtful game in Spades or No trumps. Despite there being only three diamonds in South's hand, the singleton heart and ♠A compensated for the shortage in trumps; but unless North-South find the best defence they may be in for an ugly shock.

Whenever the take-out double must be assumed to be genuine, the responder has without question one of the most interesting problems in bidding. It arises almost invariably when a player who is not vulnerable has opened, and having been doubled is raised to the utmost limit. The doubt which then arises in the responder's mind is, not the faith which he must place in his partner's take-out double but whether there is any bid in his position which will enable him to buy the contract at the slam level in relative safety. Here is a logical answer to an unusual question which first disrupted the experts nearly 20 years ago. North-South game; dealer South.



South has passed on the maximum possible. Is there any way in which he can recover the ground that has been lost? His usual course is to rebid the opponent's suit. Five Diamonds being an obvious demand for North's best suit. He might even go one step further, bidding Six Diamonds and thereby forcing his partner to bid a slam in Hearts or Spades (after an original pass South could scarcely be seeking a grand slam in Clubs). But as with most problem bids the most natural proves the best. If South is asked to bid Four Spades over Four Diamonds West may venture Five Diamonds and South will then have the opportunity to invite North to express his preference for Hearts or Spades. South may even be allowed to play in Six Spades, against which there is no defence, because he will not be suspected of having passed originally on a biddable hand.

Edward Mayer

The Sunday Times Pairs championship will be held at the Carlton Tower Hotel, London, SW1, in five sessions of approximately four hours each. Play begins at 20.00 hours on Thursday, January 26, and ends at 19.00 hours on Sunday, January 29.

Next summer try some kalakukko

It's a delicious blend of pork and fish in a pie—one of the regional dishes which are among the unique holiday attractions of Finland. There's a magic in the limitless vistas of forest and fells, lakes and islands. An atmosphere that's soothing and yet exhilarating. Old and very new buildings intermingled in colourful towns. Superb Finnish design in shop windows. The long, long summer days..... Next year, lose your heart to Finland.

Some Finland holidays

By Finnair from London: 'Finncheck Four', 8 days in Finland, with choice of hotels and unlimited rail travel, from £216. 12-day motorhome holiday from Harwich, with 6 nights in Finland, from £182. Send the coupon for details. FINNISH TOURIST BOARD 53-54 Haymarket, London, SW1Y 4RE Telephone: 01-539 4048.

Please send me details of Finland holidays
Name _____
Address _____
FT82

THE HOLIDAY THE BRITISH ALMOST FORGOT.

Spring or summer in Switzerland. Stay at a fashionable resort in an excellent first class hotel where the cuisine and service match the description Swiss perfection. KUONI TRAVEL, Britain's leading long-distance tour operator, has used its extensive Swiss connections to create for 1978 a unique programme of Swiss holidays offering outstanding value for money.

One or two weeks, from May to November, including room with bath at a first class hotel, and scheduled Swissair flights costing from less than the price of the normal airfare alone. Inclusive prices from: Interlaken £44 Davos £33 Leysin £12 Montreux £29 St. Moritz £51. See your ABTA travel agent or write for brochure to KUONI TRAVEL, Dept. S, Deepdene House, Dorking, Surrey. Tel: 0306 5934. ATOL 1328.

The TES Goes to Work

The Times Educational Supplement, now provides on its "School to Work" page each week specialist news coverage of the developing and changing relationship between education and industry and the transition from school to work. Industry and education need to know about each other. They also need to keep abreast of the rapidly growing activities of the agencies and organizations, public and voluntary, that deal with young people. The "School to Work" page supplements the attention being paid throughout the paper to the needs and interest of industrial training, careers specialists, youth workers, and all those concerned with equipping the young for a full adult role. TES—The weekly for news about education at all levels—including vocational training. From newspapers on Fridays price 18p.

THE TIMES Educational Supplement

Westminster behind closed doors, or just a slight whiff of Watergate

TV sex politics had for politicians? The question, so raged over when it concerns violence and child behaviour, was being raised at Westminster only last night as a Commons select committee went after Mr Varley and the British Steel Corporation, demanding that they come clean and bring their secret documents with them.

Bad enough, went the grumblers of far left and right, that all that American Watergate fuss, duly televised, had polluted politicians here with ideas beyond their station: acting like Congressmen demanding information and challenging accountability.

Now there was a reminder all over again in the TV melodrama *Washington—behind closed doors*, with what looked like real life instant replays as the Sergeant at Arms served a committee subpoena on Sir Charles Villiers.

It must be reported that the Labour and Conservative MPs on the committee (and their day staff) have not had much time to be distracted by television fiction. Several ministers may confess to being addicted to the glossy distortion of Nixonian Washington.

But Mr Russell Kerr, the rather unlikely Trident chairman, and his men have been trying to find a distinctly British

way to reviving parliamentary scrutiny, in the interest of forestalling further disaster at British Steel. They could hardly be convicted—although they are certainly so accused—of making things worse.

MPs may have been influenced by Watergate in the sense that it was a convulsive event in western democracy. But it was only a combination of an unorganised, inchoate movement, of which this British action is laggardly part, to demand more say in government, and more response from it.

Governments do not like it, of course, nor do many in the Civil Service. Ministers have recently revealed their reluctance and perhaps their contempt when, as was said repeatedly this week, they aver that the committee "never asked them for the information now so impudently demanded." The luckless John Mitchell put it better: "We sure in hell weren't volunteering anything," he told the Senate, Watergate Committee.

As Mr Kerr and his committee explain what they are not trying to do—and they are faced with widely bruited government accusations of attempting to Americanize the House of Commons in usurpatory fashion—it should be clear that there is at least one major American difference, and one



Russell Kerr: scrutiny the British way.

misconception of it, which seems widespread.

First, in the American conical separation of government powers between legislative, executive and judiciary, it is the judges (heaven help us!) who are called upon to decide—and who may demur.

Thus it happened that President Nixon did not and was never so compelled by any

court, surrender any of his tapes and documents to congressional subpoena. He was ordered to give specified items to the courts because of the obstruction of justice imperative (and one court set a precedent in passing the evidence on to a congressional committee for the strict purpose of considering his impeachment). But into the political thicket

of ordering the executive to hand over papers to Congress the courts would not follow. That was one battle Mr Nixon won. However pyrrhic. Likewise a President can refuse to have his staff appointed (not his departmental ministers) appear before Congress, either in open or closed session. Mr Nixon tarnished this "executive privilege" but he got it enshrined in a Supreme Court ruling.

So there are limits. And the point is that too many of our politicians get away too easily with casual, private denunciations of the American way—as if it were bad for government to be part of opening up the system.

Mr Kerr and his committee are asking for much less. They want only to be given—still in secret—Government documents hitherto denied to them. They wish to make a worthwhile report on British Steel before the Government makes up its mind what to do about the crisis in the industry.

Mr Michael Foot, for the Government, protests that this is changing the rules. The traditional way is for the House to wait until the Government announces its plans, then debate: take it or leave it.

The wonder of Westminster—as traditionalists never cease to instil in a newcomer—is that

Parliament, with due deference to precedent, can make up the rules as it goes along. But Carcharias had ancient British bitches long before it was reattached across the Atlantic. If the House wishes to change the rules, by all means do so, says Mr Foot. Yet as Leader of the House he largely controls whether the House can have the time even to debate it.

And as a firm believer in procrastination as the best remedy for a crisis he is known to be very much against debating such a change simply over the steel confrontation. Let's leave it to the committee on procedure, he says; later, later.

It will be apparent soon whether he has misjudged the mood. There are ways round him if MPs will take them. In a novel non-partisan fashion many in all parties feel that with Mr Michael English's expenditure sub-committee, Mr du Cann, chairman of the public accounts committee, and the array of select committees, the reform of institutions is, creakingly, getting under way.

By their actions, not their words, shall we know them; but an election year helps all realize that Parliament will continue to be held in slight regard until it is seen to be something more than a noisy sandbox.

Music hath charms, but can the same be said of Radio Three?

Writing in *The Times* last December, Mr Howard Newby, managing director of BBC Radio, explained amidst a baffling list of wavebands, kHz and mGz, the logic behind the great shake up of programmes which is to take place next November.

To begin with I felt reassured. All the changes were for the good of us all in the long run and if they seemed complicated, millions of listeners are to be posted which set out new wavelengths and frequencies in detail. Perhaps the howl of protest that the changes have sparked off were no more than those which usually accompany change in this country.

But the complaints are justified, especially from listeners' point of view. Mr Newby says that listeners to medium wave channels will find their reception subject to interference after dark. In other words, if I want to listen to Radio Three on medium wave I shall find my Bach and Beethoven badly interfered with.

Not for the first time the hardest hit will be motorists, whose radios, for technical reasons, cannot receive VHF with a fish and chip shop exploding, and those listeners who are, understandably, reluctant to ditch their reliable, well made old radios for a new, shiny tranny.

It is worth examining not only what cultural gains will be lost during my night time drives but also, and more importantly, what Radio Three provides during the rest of the day.

A quick survey of friends and family revealed that those who don't listen to Radio Three think it's pretty good. But I listen regularly and since I consider myself alive to a very wide range of musical experiences I have been driven to fits of hair pulling and eye rolling at the results of Radio Three's cultural policy.

It is not only the plummy voiced announcers behaving as if they were addressing a sixth form musical appreciation lesson, or the programme planners who appear to be interested solely in specific areas of Western European music, that have caused my condition. The roots are buried deeper. There is a fundamental reason why Radio Three has failed to reach a wider audience and latterly to satisfy its regulars.

A clue to this failing is found in a talk given by Sir William Haley, Director General of the BBC at the time of the Third Programme's conception. On its thirtieth anniversary last year he said: "I believe that listeners can be tempted from lower satisfactions to the higher. The programme awakened the interest of a broad strand of the university world. But the listeners we received at Broadcasting House showed the Third Programme had housewives, factory workers, clerks and commercial travellers as part of its audience."

Housewives liking Beethoven? Common factory workers? Whatever next! Sir William seemed surprised that a clerk might already have taken to Sartre's *Flies*. Surely these were the people that the Third Programme was intended to lift to higher satisfactions.

It is this appalling condescension that gives the game away. Woven into the fabric of the BBC's cultural policy is the idea that what we hear on the radio should improve our minds and that those who plan broadcasting know what is best for us. We are to be lifted from the murky depths of Frank Sinatra and Lionel Bart to the celestial heights of Peter Pears and Hugo Wolf.

Liberal doses of Anthony H. Kings and Hans Keller ens that there are no backslid on the cultural voyage, undertaken.

Since 1946, when Sir Will and his chums hatched up Third's policies, the electro communications industry recorded almost the entire world's music, from ragas reggae, but little, if any, fit its way on to my radio. What does the music is present like a museum relic, and part of a living culture.

I can, of course, understand the reluctance to give a player Ravi Shankar as an air space as Daniel Barenboim But to ignore his work is to ignore those higher satisfactions which Sir William he will all one day reach at the end of a very narrow path.

Nowhere is Radio Three more blind than in its refusal to accept the universal imp use of jazz. In 123 hours weekly broadcasting time, I which had the greatest sin influence on twentieth century culture, is given an hour and half. Moreover, it is present mainly in the request programme, so the records are interspersed with a lot of boring messages from fans.

Bonzo in Gateshead was to be remembered to Dur Tibb, Wally, Digger and all friends at The Nags Head in this 1970s. Contrast that with *Fra Music*, the French equivalent to Radio Three, who broadcast at least one hour of jazz de treating it as serious music.

Because their horizons are low, limiting the type of broadcast, Radio Three's p ners are subject to a kind Parkinson's Law, whereby familiar products of West music must constantly be hatched in a way to make it sound unfamiliar.

As a result, we are seated with programmes *Man of Action*, a kind of *Desert Island Discs* which the extremely inapt bang on about their life; how Bach's Brandenburg cewros are full of jolly tunes.

To its credit, and again much opposition, Radio Three present a little contemporary music, and works living composers. But I the obligatory explanation: *Interpretations so long and complicated that they leave me exhausted to give the work full attention.*

Listening to perhaps first and only performance a piece of music is hard go enough. To be told the composer's inspiration for the solo part at bar 895 was inspired by a Siberian folk helps no one.

I also get the feeling that the planners never listen the programmes they create. Who, for example, in the right mind wants to hear Sc bert's Second Symphony seven in the morning? I even the most dedicated, ch al music can only be mu at that hour. Instead of be offered a little Gershwin singalong in the bath, we blasted from our beds w tuneless and noisy orchest music, often by third rate composers. Early morning mu on Radio Three is a com nation of an army bugle c and prep bell.

In his anniversary speech Sir William Haley said that the early days of Radio Three it could be heard by only per cent of the listen because of "Russian interference. Assuming Radio Three still has an audience November, when the sun se they will be back where it started.

Barry Fantoi

Red-hot Sophie, the fat girl who sang for love, and money

Sophie Tucker was big—and not just in bulk, although she weighed in at 15 stone and wobbled on to a stage, as one critic put it, "like a blonde and pink battleship".

In an age when American show business produced giant entertainers, she was, among the biggest, and her career spanned a period from her first promising notices with the 1909 Ziegfeld Follies until only months before her death in 1966.

She was also one of her country's most popular exports, filling theatres in London as frequently as she did in the United States. But like many powerful entertainers, she was hard.

The woman who sang *My Yiddish Mama* and who billed herself as *The Fat Girl* of the Red-hot Mammas cried out for affection from three husbands whose love, it seemed, she bought. Yet she failed to give very much love to her only child, Bert—the son she deserted when he was a year old—so that she could launch herself on a Broadway career.

Sophie was always known as the "fat girl" at her father's restaurant at Hartford, Connecticut, and to her stage represented not merely glamour, but above all an escape from the steam and the drudgery of what was local café society.

Success did not come easily. After fruitless weeks searching for work in New York, she even contemplated going on to the streets. But that success did come before long and with it riches beyond most people's dreams, culminating in the Royal Command Performance of 1934 when she raised her hand in salute to George V and called out: "Hiya, King."

The king's reaction is not on record, although at the time he was reported to be "fairly amused."

She was one of those artists who held a magnetic appeal to the Duke of Windsor when he was Prince of Wales, even though she was advised by the Lord Chamberlain to stop mentioning him in her songs. She even had the doubtful honour of tumbling, skirt first, down a long winding staircase at the feet of the Duke of York, who became George VI. He was said to have been a lot less worried about that than he was about numerous other "happenings".

It was Sophie Tucker who first coined the phrase "Life begins at 40"—even though she was in her thirties when she first said it. But that was part of her determination never to allow the truth to get in the way either of a good song, or of a good story that spelt good publicity.

Like the time in the thirties when she claimed to have rescued a small boy from being run down by a car. It never happened, but the newspapers on both sides of the Atlantic gave her full coverage because she was a "headliner" in a sense that one sense.

The great achievement of Sophie Tucker was that she could bring in thousands of dollars and pounds at the box office from people waiting to hear her sing *Some of These Days*—even though for about 20 years before her death she had practically no voice at all. She was talking her songs long before Rex Harrison did in *My Fair Lady* and still had audiences eating out of her puddy palms.

Her numbers were often considered "risqué"—so much so that military chaplains in the last war advised her not to tour Army camps because the troops could be offended by her language. She replied to them in suitable terms and went ahead with her songs just the same.

She survived well into the



Sophie Tucker arriving in Britain: "Hiya, King", she had called to George V.

rock and roll era, topping the bill in London at the Dominion and the Talk of the Town and being again received as the real attraction at the Royal Variety Performance in 1962—when the Queen told her: "I was thrilled by your performance."

She worked so hard that at

one time she was doing four performances a night—at two different theatres and a night club. In London she was earning £900 a week as long ago as 1926 when she was the star of the famous Kit Club club.

"Of course, I'm vain," she said shortly before her death at the age of 79. "I still knock

myself out. I'm still a fuss about my work. I've been a performer a lot of years."

That sort of spirit won her the admiration of her generation—of whom she figures among a list of generalists that included Al Jolson, Eddie Cantor, Jack Benny, and of whom only Mae West and

George Burns are still alive. But there are more than a few people who would love to see a miracle to see them come back *Some of These Days*.

Michael Freedland

The writer is the author of *Sophie*, published this week by the Woburn Press.

Cry from a Scottish heart: enough of this tartan tomfoolery

Could it be that the Scottish National Party protest has been much? The fault with taking a perpetual offensive and of having one dogmatic aim, Scottish independence, is that the campaign loses some of its mint freshness and begins to sound strident. The initiative in Scotland still rests largely with the SNP, but constantly attacking the credibility of the British system of government may ultimately antagonize more than it persuades, especially as the economy improves and life in Scotland is less dogged by the deprivation we are constantly reminded the country suffers.

That this improvement should come by courtesy of the oil off the Scottish coast, the very substance which made the SNP's credible, adds an ironic twist to Mr Callaghan's sunny grin. Perhaps he sees Nyrth Sea oil like the Taj Mahal, an even more valuable reardrop on the cheek of destiny.

Magnified by distance and an even fairer affection for the unity of Britain, the Nationalists campaign can seem irritating. Witness the howl of rage, which landed on my desk the other day from a Scot now living in London who had been "bumped" by the SNP in demonstration.

ed the view of the metropolitan or British Scot. He wrote thus: "In one sense, we are all Nationalists, we all feel that the English are patronizing philistines. We are all moved by the Argyllshire declaration. We all think that a day devoted to Scotland's efforts in Parliament is desirable. We all feel that Scotland's 'specialness' is instinctively catered for, and that some sort of machinery ought to be devised to take account of this."

"But Tartanry really is not the answer. If we are being really Scots, I must confess that as a Breckon" (Do you know what a Breckon is? I have little or no interreg sympathy with that disgusting mess that was and is, Glasgow, inhabited by truculent, winking drunks. Having had a Highland mother, I even find the east coasters (as she did) a pretty drag lot and in my school we read Burns with a glossary."

"What I am trying to say here is that the bottom of Scotland is largely an artefact, cherished in Caledonian clubs in Dundee and Chicago. What you people seem to do is perpetually present it as a reality to which you would give the force of law."

"The history of our land before (and, to some extent, since) the Union makes sad reading, whether it is the behaviour of Scot towards Scot or the attempts to create national wealth. Mr Johnson was right when he remarked on the magnetic attraction of the road to

England. Think of the awful effects of the Reformation as well as benefits such as the educational system.

"The romantic intoxication peddled by the Clydebank Boadicea, Mrs MacDonald, is a narcotic drug that momentarily stops the pain of Scotland's economic reality (which is no different from other heavy industry areas like North-east England and South Wales). It is no more than an echo of 'here's the tea'. Or 'what's yer Willie Shakespeare noo'?"

Not too long suffering...

"If you get your heart's desire, and wind up like southern Ireland, exporting people instead of goods, will you be content? From a purely economic standpoint (as the Union has always been) it is close not looser links with England that can save you. The heart of our disagreement lies in the question: Is Scotland on its own viable? If it proves not to be I doubt if your descendants will have a second chance, whatever else they are, the English are long-suffering but not as long as that."

"To your specific points: Scotland's relationship with the EEC will depend, alas, on the EEC perhaps more than her own decision. There is not a small democracy in Europe as poor as Scotland, so that for

Scotland the defence costs would be proportionately higher. Maybe the English pound is hard-pressed now, but the size of England's industrial base is what in the end will decide. You are banking on oil too heavily. The breathing space it would give you is too short to catch up with, say, Austria."

"To conclude, I am old enough to remember successive waves of Scots Natteries going back to J. M. Bannerman and the eccentric Duchess of Montrose, Compton Mackenzie (spurious killed but a splendid table rouser), and C. M. Grieve, bobbing out of his Marxist Valhalla to wave the claymore and diving back in again. It is like the drink, man. We must really fight to stay off it. What Scotland needs is an access of dignity. Less of this Andy Stewart nonsense, the awful provinciality of her newspapers (if the Guardian could do it in Manchester, why couldn't the *Herald* in Glasgow), the black intransigencies of the Church. The soverling propaganda line 'It's our oil' makes me, a Scot, ashamed of us. Yours aye for a tart."

Ronald Faux

* A native of Fraserburgh

Philip Tommer's interview with Anthony Price will appear next Wednesday.

Flickering memories of the sahibs and memsahibs who ruled India



Home snaps from abroad in the twenties.

Other people's home movies are generally to be avoided, like other people's coughs and hard luck stories. However, from such unpromising material Cambridge University has just created something that rescues from oblivion aspects of the Raj that would otherwise have been lost for ever. These sepia and flickering amateur films of the men who ruled India and their memsahibs record more exactly than the written word the way a household ran with its *khanas*, bearers, *syce*, and *peons*, or how one set about going on medical tour in the Naga Hills in the 1930s.

The films arrived incidentally and accidentally in the Archive of the Centre of South Asian Studies in Cambridge, where since 1970 Mary Thatcher has gathered one of the world's great collections of letters, diaries, memoirs, tape recordings, and other documents of the British in India from the eighteenth century until 1947. Along with these crates and trunks of papers has come a steady trickle of home movies taken from the 1920s onwards to bore the life out of relations when the Raj went home on leave. So far the archive has collected 50,000 feet of film from old ICS hands, soldiers,

and the Raj wearing others of his hats. The National Film Archive found out about it, and pointed out that this represented a unique treasure, which is not a description often given to home movies, except possibly by those who took them. Mary Thatcher and her team had to edit this rich and endearing material down to 1,000 feet. She says it nearly broke her heart to have to leave out so many marvellous pictures evocative of that vanished world and vanished age. Her film was financed by a grant from the Ford Foundation and by contributions from Times Newspapers

and other private benefactors. The result, *Films from the Raj*, lasts half an hour, and tells better than words how you set about shooting tiger from an elephant, or what you took on tour to show the flag, or the working practices and tools of the trade. The commentary is given in the words of the Raj and his memsahibs from the archive, often of those who took the films. It forms an invaluable record for schoolchildren and future generations of that astonishing episode in British and Indian history.

Philip Howard



New Printing House Square, London, WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WAR IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

The war between Ethiopia and Somalia, facing Western governments with an acute difficulty. Replying to questions in Parliament this week on Somalia's request to get arms from Britain, Mr Owen implied that Britain would not wish to be involved, preferring that the dispute should be solved within an African context, but he admitted that the massive supplies of Soviet arms and the intrusion of Cuban and Soviet military personnel threatened to turn the Horn of Africa into a province of Soviet imperialism. Now *Pravda* has decided that attack is the best method of defence, so the charge is simply reversed: it is the Americans and their allies who are trying to "stifle" the Ethiopian revolution, while the impulse to internationalize the conflict also originates in Washington.

Obviously both Western and African interests demand that Ethiopia should not become a Soviet satellite. It is far from certain that this will be the outcome of the present increasingly sanguinary struggle. Circumstances have however given the Soviet Union an exceptionally favourable opportunity to play the Angolan game again. The usual calls for mediation and peaceful agreements have been made, and the Security Council may yet be invoked along with the Organization of African Unity, but the build-up of arms and the vital interests of both sides are now too involved to leave much hope for an early ceasefire or a political solution.

It is true that Russia is in a position to claim that she is only supporting, and only with arms, the victim of aggression. The Somali excuses that the Ogaden revolt is still a matter of local freedom fighters for self-determination is now too thin to bear any weight. The originally Russian-trained Somali army is fully engaged, and the Russians trained and armed it for this very operation (together with subsequent objectives in Kenya and Djibouti), in exchange for a naval base from which to dominate the Indian Ocean. Had Emperor Haile Selassie still been on the throne, still leaning on the Americans, the Russians would be talking about the Somali action as the

self-determination of a homogeneous people who were carved up in the days of the partition of Africa, with Ethiopia, under Emperor Menelik, as much involved as any European colonialist.

But Haile Selassie was overthrown in a Marxist revolution, a 1 in Ethiopia. The Russians came to see a greater prize (whose capture for the Moscow communist cause did not exclude a return to Somalia later). After trying to reconcile the irreconcilable they moved into Ethiopia as the Americans moved out (and reciprocally moved out of Somalia). The fact that the Ethiopian revolution is going through a succession of bloody stages, as the strong man slowly establishes his personal dictatorship, is a familiar process in the chaos in Ethiopia has a revolutionary authenticity suggested by parallels with Russia in 1918-21. They know how to move in the maelstrom, or think they do, in such a way as to be the big brother of the man who finally unites the country, presumably Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, but if he goes down, of whoever supplants him.

Just because Ethiopia is so big, and because Russia has championed its cause against aggression, Russia cannot afford to allow that intervention to fail of its purpose. This is suggested by the enormous air and sea movement of arms and advisers, which seems designed not merely to turn the tide in the Ogaden and in Eritrea for Colonel Mengistu Haile Mariam, but to demonstrate to all Africa that the Soviet Union has world power, air and naval, to carry out its intentions anywhere. Ethiopia is in this respect a bigger Angola. It is showing the Africans that Russia can arrange the necessary staging points in satellites like Iraq and Aden; that it is not remote that everyone is within reach of its might; that Castro's Cuba is a new instrument with which to exercise its physical power to which the West has no answer. Paradoxically in Ethiopia, the Cubans are partnered by the Israelis, who have given the tottering Ethiopian forces incalculable help in keeping American logistical equipment going.

The Somalis have brought all this down on their own heads, but their Ogaden front is now integral to the Eritrean uprising. The Eritreans drew off pressure from the Ogaden, but now pressure in the Ogaden is a condition of the Eritreans taking Asmara or Massawa and being in a position credibly to declare independence in the approved Castroite manner. The Somali claim to Ogaden is weaker than that of the Eritreans to have a national state of their own. If Russian arms defeat the Somalis, the Eritreans would presently feel the full force of Amharic fury, in a war that has genocidal tendencies. A landlocked communist Ethiopia would not be as valuable an ally for Russia as one with a Red Sea coast.

President Carter, in this tangle of rights and ulterior motives, has refused arms to Somalia—has refused a commitment agreed from the days of the Emperor may be delivered to Aden Ababa if relations are not broken first. Britain will not step in. The Arabs—notably Saudi Arabia and Iran, but also Egypt, are providing some finance wherever Somalia (and the Eritreans) can buy on the open market—but the weight is tilting slowly against such an inherently small and impoverished country. The main hope of the Somalis and the Eritrean rebels must lie in the disunity, the debilitating purges and massacres, which weaken the Marxist regime's ability to deploy the Russian equipment; indeed it is evident that this difficulty is being temporarily met by Cuban, Russian and Israeli personnel in varying degree.

Evidently the West cannot underwrite the Ogaden adventure. But to acquiesce in the Russians becoming the controlling influence in a grateful and restored Ethiopia, still host to the OAU, would be a confession of the utter incompetence of Western diplomacy. It will not do merely to assume that Russia will burn its fingers in the historic antagonisms of the Horn of Africa, or be ejected from Addis Ababa as it was ejected from Egypt and Somalia after serving a local purpose. All of Africa needs to be warned of the dangerous implications of inviting Russia to arbitrate in its affairs.

reason to devalue now. The compulsion came from government fears lest the threat first voiced in public by Mr Peter Walker, that opposition parties would unite to defeat the Government on an agricultural motion, should be realized on Monday.

The effect of the move will hardly be large or early in respect of either of the two opposing interests, that which wants to hold food prices down and that which wants to see farm prices rise. Because of high stocks of dairy products and meat, and because of the current low market prices for cereals, there should be no visible impact on the retail price index for at least six months. As regards the aspect of agricultural finance about which there is most reason for public apprehension just now—the ability or willingness of farmers to invest in the expansion of output—a smallish, politically dictated devaluation of the green pound with no promise of more to come is likely to influence decisions much less than the uncertainties and worries farmers have about present and future capital taxation. That acts on the confidence of the industry quite as much as the manipulation of green percentages.

In reply to Mr Alvarez I would like to quote from a pamphlet published in 1958 under the signature of Dr Sabiu Mammila, former Director General of the Romanian Central Institute of Statistics, and Dr Wm. Filiderman, who was the leader of Romanian Jewry between 1922 and 1940, and continued to assist on their behalf during the period 1940-48. This shows that the total Jewish population of Romania before the 1939 war amounted to 275,419, 138,917 and 807 were in territories ceded in 1940 to the Soviet Union, Hungary and Bulgaria respectively. Thus only 312,972 were left in what remained Romanian territory, until the end of the war.

Had the figures mentioned by Mr Alvarez based on Miss Arendt's book been correct, there should have been hardly any Jews left in Romania after the war.

However, bearing in mind that there are some 200,000 Israeli citizens of Romanian origin, who emigrated after the war and another 90,000 still living in Romania it becomes very clear that the figures indicated by Mr Alvarez are both erroneous and misleading.

The same pamphlet states that "Jews suffered by the Jewish population as a consequence of the war amounted to approximately 15,000 which included about 3,000 killed under the short existence of the Iron Guard Government, 3,400 killed as a result of military reprisals in the last area, and losses caused by deportation to Transylvania."

Mr Alvarez seems to rely for his information on a book (probably the same *Eichmann in Jerusalem* mentioned towards the end of the letter) by the late Hannah Arendt, to claim that the Romanians had murdered nearly 300,000 Jews. It is unfortunate that Mr Alvarez does not bring any additional statistical evidence or source in support of the claim.

MR SILKIN'S HAND IS FORCED

Mr Silkin, the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, has been pushed into a five per cent change in the rate of the green pound by the combined pressure of the opposition parties for an even larger devaluation. The prospect of a Conservative motion being carried in the Commons on Monday with the support, certainly of Scottish and Welsh Nationalists and probably of at least some Liberals and Northern Ireland MPs, has forced the Government to deliver a compromise which, if it satisfies the Liberal Party, ought to head off defeat.

Farmers want a much higher devaluation than five per cent with a commitment to further changes. Organized consumers and many food processors want the Government to win reforms of EEC food policy before it agrees to any change. There was no mention of reform in Mr Silkin's terse statement yesterday. Yet, he has consistently advocated a policy of using the rate of the green pound as a bargaining counter in his efforts to win concessions from Brussels that were in British interests when he devalued last May he had already secured a large outer subsidy for this country.

The next stage of that subsidy has still to be negotiated in Brussels.

Mr Silkin has also insisted that he would judge the need for a devaluation in the national interest, balancing the needs of farmers and those of consumers and processors. Six months ago he said: "When I look around the busy agricultural industry today I cannot accept that it is in poor health." When the Government's annual agricultural review was published nine days ago he said that farm output had made a "dramatic recovery" after the droughts of 1975 and 1976. He added: "The recovery illustrates the underlying strength of the industry."

The review indicated that the real value of aggregate farm incomes held steady last year, when the value of most other occupational incomes was falling. The recent sharp drop in the exchange value of sterling will be having a favourable effect on farmers' costs and, slightly, on the value of their produce. Indeed, judging solely from Mr Silkin's own statements about farming against the background of the abusive policy towards the EEC that he has followed consistently for more than two years, there was no compelling

reason to devalue now. The compulsion came from government fears lest the threat first voiced in public by Mr Peter Walker, that opposition parties would unite to defeat the Government on an agricultural motion, should be realized on Monday.

The effect of the move will hardly be large or early in respect of either of the two opposing interests, that which wants to hold food prices down and that which wants to see farm prices rise. Because of high stocks of dairy products and meat, and because of the current low market prices for cereals, there should be no visible impact on the retail price index for at least six months. As regards the aspect of agricultural finance about which there is most reason for public apprehension just now—the ability or willingness of farmers to invest in the expansion of output—a smallish, politically dictated devaluation of the green pound with no promise of more to come is likely to influence decisions much less than the uncertainties and worries farmers have about present and future capital taxation. That acts on the confidence of the industry quite as much as the manipulation of green percentages.

In reply to Mr Alvarez I would like to quote from a pamphlet published in 1958 under the signature of Dr Sabiu Mammila, former Director General of the Romanian Central Institute of Statistics, and Dr Wm. Filiderman, who was the leader of Romanian Jewry between 1922 and 1940, and continued to assist on their behalf during the period 1940-48. This shows that the total Jewish population of Romania before the 1939 war amounted to 275,419, 138,917 and 807 were in territories ceded in 1940 to the Soviet Union, Hungary and Bulgaria respectively. Thus only 312,972 were left in what remained Romanian territory, until the end of the war.

Had the figures mentioned by Mr Alvarez based on Miss Arendt's book been correct, there should have been hardly any Jews left in Romania after the war.

However, bearing in mind that there are some 200,000 Israeli citizens of Romanian origin, who emigrated after the war and another 90,000 still living in Romania it becomes very clear that the figures indicated by Mr Alvarez are both erroneous and misleading.

The same pamphlet states that "Jews suffered by the Jewish population as a consequence of the war amounted to approximately 15,000 which included about 3,000 killed under the short existence of the Iron Guard Government, 3,400 killed as a result of military reprisals in the last area, and losses caused by deportation to Transylvania."

Mr Alvarez seems to rely for his information on a book (probably the same *Eichmann in Jerusalem* mentioned towards the end of the letter) by the late Hannah Arendt, to claim that the Romanians had murdered nearly 300,000 Jews. It is unfortunate that Mr Alvarez does not bring any additional statistical evidence or source in support of the claim.

THE ALBANY TRUST

From Dr S. E. Ellison
In Mr Rodney Bennett-England's letter (January 18) complaints that unfounded allegations have been made in Parliament about the Albany Trust, a public funded body, which he acts as chairman.

The allegation that encourages the Trust to the paedophile campaign is not answered by stating that government grants have not been given to the Paedophile Information Exchange (PIE). What is alleged is that the Trust has given encouragement and assistance.

Mr Bennett-England discounts any involvement with the translation and distribution of the Dutch Speijer Report to PIE which seeks to justify adult sexual gratification with minors.

The fact of the matter is that the Albany Trust has actively campaigned for the reduction of the age of consent which the Speijer Report considered was "... an important step towards the crumbling of taboos in the field of sexuality. They (the committee) are of the opinion that the Bill must be followed by other ones (for example, relating to pornography) if we wish to achieve a complete elimination of the said taboos."

Yours sincerely,
S. E. ELLISON, Chairman,
The Responsible Society,
28 Portland Place, W1,
January 18.

Romania's Jews
From Mr G. Filiderman.
Sir, I have read with considerable surprise Mr Alvarez's letter (December 9) and wonder what really lies behind what appears to be a piece of anti-Romanian propaganda.

Mr Alvarez seems to rely for his information on a book (probably the same *Eichmann in Jerusalem* mentioned towards the end of the letter) by the late Hannah Arendt, to claim that the Romanians had murdered nearly 300,000 Jews. It is unfortunate that Mr Alvarez does not bring any additional statistical evidence or source in support of the claim.

supplied copies to PIE of a report which is not concerned with the psychodynamics of paedophilia but with abolishing the existing penal provision concerning homosexual offences with minors" (p. 2). The Speijer Report is a document which seeks to justify adult sexual gratification with minors.

The fact of the matter is that the Albany Trust has actively campaigned for the reduction of the age of consent which the Speijer Report considered was "... an important step towards the crumbling of taboos in the field of sexuality. They (the committee) are of the opinion that the Bill must be followed by other ones (for example, relating to pornography) if we wish to achieve a complete elimination of the said taboos."

Yours sincerely,
S. E. ELLISON, Chairman,
The Responsible Society,
28 Portland Place, W1,
January 18.

Romania's Jews
From Mr G. Filiderman.
Sir, I have read with considerable surprise Mr Alvarez's letter (December 9) and wonder what really lies behind what appears to be a piece of anti-Romanian propaganda.

Mr Alvarez seems to rely for his information on a book (probably the same *Eichmann in Jerusalem* mentioned towards the end of the letter) by the late Hannah Arendt, to claim that the Romanians had murdered nearly 300,000 Jews. It is unfortunate that Mr Alvarez does not bring any additional statistical evidence or source in support of the claim.

restriction on dogs
From Mr M. J. R. Stockman
Sir, As a practising veterinary surgeon and a dog breeder, I would appreciate the opportunity to make comments on the controversy on restrictions on dogs. We cannot but admit that Professor Woodruff is entirely justified in publicising the results of his team's work on *Toxocara Canis* and the dangers to young children of ingesting the larval form. However, much of the publicity on the subject of recent years has suggested to the uninformed that these dangers are more significant than is true.

Virtually any activity in this life has its attendant risks. Diesel fumes from traffic on the way to the park, bee stings while enjoying the amenities of the park, even the proverbial banana skin, all are capable of causing harm to the human, and in fact are, I am sure, statistically more likely to do so.

The *Toxocara* threat has never been demonstrated to be anything more than a relatively minor one. Surely what is needed is a sense of proportion in all who are in a position to legislate on the subject, as well as those who position is one of expertise.

As has been said many times before, responsibility among dog owners is the essential prerequisite; regular treatment for round worms and proper control of dogs while on exercise will do a great deal more than blanket bans.

Yours faithfully,
M. J. R. STOCKMAN,
The Veterinary Hospital,
74 Wood Street,
Barnet,
Hertfordshire,
January 12.

How women got the vote
From Lord Brockway
Sir, I was fascinated by Jill Craigie's description of how women got the vote (January 16). I am glad she debunked the myth that it was because of their services in the First World War. I took a background part in the struggle, at first supporting the suffragettes, but I broke from them when they resorted to arson, and soon appreciated that it was the non-violent National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies which was influencing effective opinion. Under the guidance of Catherine Marshall, their political secretary, the Union obtained pledges from a large majority of MPs and of parliamentary candidates that they would support a Bill giving women the vote on equal terms as men in the forthcoming Parliament. A general election would have taken place if the war of 1914 had not occurred and women's political equality would have been enacted.

Within the Labour movement there was a difference of opinion as to whether the Bill for the extension of male suffrage should be supported whilst women were excluded. Ramsay MacDonald was in favour as a step towards adult

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Improving life in modern slums

From Mr John Piper, CH, and Mr Henry Moore, OM, CH, FBA
Sir, We have read the letters in *The Times* (January 19) from Lords Goodman and Gibson and from Mr Hugh Leggett and write to give further support to their suggestion that the Victoria and Albert Museum should be separated from the Department of Education and Science as quickly as possible.

We as artists, and constant users of the V & A for over 50 years, feel that the restrictions imposed do a great deal of harm not only to the Museum as a public institution but also to designers, craftsmen, painters, sculptors and students who especially need, and are being denied, constant access to the collections.

Surely Lord Donaldson can reverse at least some of the cuts that have been imposed in the interests of the Arts for which he is minister?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PIPER,
HENRY MOORE,
Pawley Bottom Farmhouse,
near Hareley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
January 19.

Control of the V & A Museum

From Mr John Piper, CH, and Mr Henry Moore, OM, CH, FBA
Sir, We have read the letters in *The Times* (January 19) from Lords Goodman and Gibson and from Mr Hugh Leggett and write to give further support to their suggestion that the Victoria and Albert Museum should be separated from the Department of Education and Science as quickly as possible.

We as artists, and constant users of the V & A for over 50 years, feel that the restrictions imposed do a great deal of harm not only to the Museum as a public institution but also to designers, craftsmen, painters, sculptors and students who especially need, and are being denied, constant access to the collections.

Surely Lord Donaldson can reverse at least some of the cuts that have been imposed in the interests of the Arts for which he is minister?

Yours faithfully,
JOHN PIPER,
HENRY MOORE,
Pawley Bottom Farmhouse,
near Hareley-on-Thames,
Oxfordshire,
January 19.

Purchase grants

From Mr Andrew Faulds, MP for Watlington (Labour)
Sir, Public museums will be encouraged to know that the position with regard to possible special purchase grants to them from the Treasury contingency reserve, which has been caused by a previous announcement from the Department of Education and Science, has now been clarified by parliamentary answer to questions tabled by myself (Hansard, Written Answers, January 17, col 186 and January 18, col 239-240).

The fact has now been confirmed that the Department of Education and Science is not precluded in principle by any current convention or rule from applying for such grants if and when the arts budget allows. It is a matter of the Treasury's discretion, not of the Treasury's principle, to preclude in principle from entertaining such an application.

The real situation thus turns out to be as set out in Mr Denis Mahon's letter to you (January 10), and not as implied in the letter sent to him in September from the Department of Education and Science (from which he quoted). And since that department's letter was written by Mr Mahon in the context of his offer of £50,000 towards Birmingham's Belin, ought it not to be followed by the Minister for the Arts?

Sincerely,
ANDREW FAULDS,
House of Commons.

Explaining psychic effects

From the President of the Society for Psychical Research
Sir, May I make some comments from the point of view of one who has carried out psychical research for many years.

Scientific theories are models representing our experiences which are useful in that they enable us to predict future experiences. The models break down occasionally and have to be changed for better ones. This happened soon after the beginning of this century when the model of the universe describing it as little hard atoms in relative motion had to be drastically changed to one involving relativity and quantum mechanics, the little hard balls being replaced by waves of probability and energy and in which the experimenter affects his results. Our current scientific paradigms are not a deep knowledge of reality, they are merely models representing experience, which change with time as they are shown to be inadequate.

Psychic phenomena do not at present appear to fit the current scientific paradigms. The evidence, some of which is that they enable us to predict future experiences, is carefully examined with an open mind, first to see whether the claims made are true and, secondly, if they are, whether we can devise models to fit them. Careful investigators in many universities and elsewhere are attempting to do this.

May I commend your attention to the purpose of The Society for Psychical Research, which was founded in 1882: "To examine, without prejudice or prepossession and in a scientific spirit, those faculties of man, real or supposed, which appear to be inexplicable on any generally recognised hypothesis."

Whether or not magicians can, under their own conditions, imitate some of the claimed phenomena being studied is beside the point. Of course their advice has been used by serious investigators in planning and execution of tests and experiments, whether or not some of your correspondents have heard of them.

I find it not a little surprising that a few of your academic correspondents, who should surely know better, have been misled by the above and not to agree with the fundamental principles of the scientific approach to our experience.

Yours truly,
ARTHUR J. ELLISON,
President, Society for Psychical Research,
1 Adam & Eve Mews,
Kensington, W8,
January 20.

Scots assembly finances

From Mr Adam Ferguson
Sir, Why do you go on repeating, as in your leader of January 17, that no discussion in the Commons Committee is "distinct improvement" on those in its predecessor, when they are almost word for word the same and therefore distinctly as bad?

Here, as before, is the plan for a block grant of two or three thousand million pounds a year to be administered by a body with no responsibility for raising it. The only significant modification put forward by the Government makes the negotiation of that sum a four-yearly rather than an annual affair. This raises the intriguing metaphysical question of whether it is better to have one great big family size blizzard now about who gets what every four years, when inflationary and other economic prospects are correspondingly opaque, or a medium sized one every year on the year. The annual figure at least has the merit (pace Mr Kirkland's interesting article on the same date as your leader) of giving Scottish MPs something more to do, if indeed they are allowed a part in it. However, that putative improvement was mooted by the Government only in its published statement on financing last summer, and has not even been incorporated in the Bill.

Civil Service pay

From Mr Kenneth Baker, MP for the City of Westminster, St Marylebone (Conservative)
Sir, I hardly feel it is necessary to reply to Mr Pettit's letter of January 19, but as he has accused me of being inaccurate, I think the record has to be put right. The deduction from civil servants' salaries that covers inflation proofing is 1.75 per cent not 7 per cent as he asserts. This is clearly set out on page 124 of volume III of the Select Committee's Report on the Civil Service.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH BAKER,
House of Commons.

The Churchill portrait

From Mr G. C. Strass, MP for Vauxhall (Labour)
Sir, I have consulted a number of my parliamentary colleagues who were involved in the painting of Sir Winston's portrait by Graham Sutherland and they all endorse my conviction that the picture was intended to be a tribute to him as a great parliamentarian and as such hang in an appropriately conspicuous place in the Palace of Westminster.

It is, of course, possible that the intention of the donors was not formally conveyed to Sir Winston, but I think nevertheless desirable in the interests of history that it should be put on record.

Yours sincerely,
G. C. STRASS,
House of Commons,
January 19.

Behaving like animals

From Mr J. M. Stuart-Smith
Sir, As a farmer with cattle, sheep and pigs I can assure Mrs Elspeth Huxley (January 17) that not only do people behave like animals but animals frequently behave like people. Animals will stampede and crush each other in pens or yards either from high spirits or, more usually, from quite unreasonable fear and in the absence of any general stress conditions.

So far as aggressive display is concerned I was careless enough, some years ago, to let two normally well-behaved boars get together and the larger would have killed the smaller if I hadn't forced them apart with a shovel which luckily was handy.

Examples of lack of manners and concern for others out of course be seen in the piggy every day. The anger, aggressiveness and ill manners of humans which are reported daily in industrial disputes, etc, arise from precisely the same lack of those attributes which are supposed, in some respects, to raise us above the other animals.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. STUART-SMITH,
Dunn Street Farm,
Westwell,
Kent.

Choosing a solicitor

From Mr Ian Fletcher
Sir, Your Editorial observations today upon the Law Society's ill-conceived venture into the realm of public relations, appear to contain at least one resounding inconsistency. You assert, quite correctly, that selection at random from the Yellow Pages is an unwise proceeding. But you thereafter aver that "The best way of finding a solicitor is still by personal recommendation." Pray, why should I, in view of all the dire warnings lately issued by the Law Society itself, entrust my legal affairs to the hands of the solicitor who is recommended to me by Whizzwinnings?

Yours faithfully,
IAN FLETCHER,
Canterbury,
Kent.

How women got the vote

From Lord Brockway
Sir, I was fascinated by Jill Craigie's description of how women got the vote (January 16). I am glad she debunked the myth that it was because of their services in the First World War. I took a background part in the struggle, at first supporting the suffragettes, but I broke from them when they resorted to arson, and soon appreciated that it was the non-violent National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies which was influencing effective opinion. Under the guidance of Catherine Marshall, their political secretary, the Union obtained pledges from a large majority of MPs and of parliamentary candidates that they would support a Bill giving women the vote on equal terms as men in the forthcoming Parliament. A general election would have taken place if the war of 1914 had not occurred and women's political equality would have been enacted.

Within the Labour movement there was a difference of opinion as to whether the Bill for the extension of male suffrage should be supported whilst women were excluded. Ramsay MacDonald was in favour as a step towards adult

THE TIMES BUSINESS NEWS

Mr Carter puts emphasis on America's key role in reviving world economy

President Jimmy Carter sent a message today outlining the economic policy he believes will lead to a modest but steady recovery in the next few years, modestly cut inflation to 5 per cent in the next year, and a more active role for the United States in the world economy.

The message, which was the first of its kind since Carter took office, was sent to the House of Representatives and the Senate in a letter.

Mr Carter said the United States must take a more active role in the world economy, and that the United States must lead the way in reviving the world economy.

He said the United States must take a more active role in the world economy, and that the United States must lead the way in reviving the world economy.

President's speech disappoints dealers on foreign exchanges

Our Economics Staff
The President's speech yesterday to Congress was fairly muted, and it was not clear whether it would lead to a more active role for the United States in the world economy.

Dealers on the foreign exchange markets were disappointed by the President's speech, which they felt was too cautious.

They felt that the President's speech did not provide enough detail on the economic policy he intended to follow.

Japan's trade surplus of 9,750m is double record

Japan's official trade surplus for the year ended in December 1977 was 9,750 million yen, a record for the country.

The surplus was more than double the previous record of 4,500 million yen set in 1972.

The Japanese Ministry of Finance said the surplus was due to a combination of factors, including a strong export performance and a decline in imports.

How the markets moved

THE POUND		Bank	San
		buys	sell
Australia \$	1.75	1.75	1.75
Austria Sch	31.00	31.00	31.00
Belgium Fr	66.00	63.00	63.00
Canada \$	2.19	2.19	2.19
Denmark Kr	11.48	11.48	11.48
Finland Mk	8.05	7.75	7.75
France Fr.	9.39	9.39	9.39
Germany Dm	4.28	4.28	4.28
Greece Dr	79.00	75.00	75.00
Hong Kong \$	9.20	8.75	8.75
Italy L	1750.00	1650.00	1650.00
Japan Yn	485.00	460.00	460.00
Netherlands Gld	4.57	4.57	4.57
Norway Kr	10.26	9.90	9.90
Portugal Esc	90.00	84.00	84.00
S Africa Rd	2.32	2.32	2.32
Spain Pes	165.50	158.75	158.75

Arab and US links to strengthen group's international impact Hill Samuel stakes for foreign banks

By Christopher Wilkins
An American bank and a consortium bank which is 50 per cent owned by Arab interests are to take significant steps to strengthen their international impact.

The new group, Hill Samuel, is a joint venture between the American bank and a consortium of Arab banks.

The group is expected to have a significant impact on the international banking scene.



Sir Kenneth Keith: "Merging with large sources of money"

Swan's lost ship orders reallocated

By John Huxley
Swan Hunter shipbuilders have lost the order for four Polish cargo ships, which have been reallocated to other shipbuilders.

The order was lost to a rival shipbuilder, and the four ships will now be built elsewhere.

The reallocation is expected to have a significant impact on the shipbuilding industry.

£77.8m pre-tax profit from Grand Metropolitan is 36 pc up on year

By Our Financial Staff
Grand Metropolitan, the brewing, foods, hotels and retailing group, has reported a 36 per cent increase in pre-tax profits from £57.1m to £77.8m for the year to September 30.

The group's profits were boosted by a strong performance in its retailing and hotels divisions.

The increase in profits is a significant achievement for the group.

Rally in sterling Eurobonds reflected in two new issues

By Our Financial Staff
The sterling Eurobond market, which seemed threatened with extinction after the briefest flowering late last year, has been reopened with the launching of two new issues.

The new issues are expected to have a significant impact on the market.

The rally in the market is a positive sign for investors.

MLR held—but under pressure

The Bank of England's minimum lending rate remains unchanged at 6½ per cent as a result of yesterday's weekly Treasury bill tender. But the tender came under pressure, suggesting a cut in MLR and there may well be market pressure for a reduction next Friday.

The Bank of England is expected to announce a decision on the MLR next Friday.

The market is closely watching the Bank's moves.

Committee drops plan to ease small firm audits

By Nicholas Hirst
Sharp differences of opinion within the accountancy profession have killed hopes of an early change in company law to remove the onerous requirements of a full-scale audit for small companies.

The Committee has decided to drop its plan to ease the audit requirements for small firms.

The decision is a disappointment for many small business owners.

Leyland car prices to rise by 6.45 pc

By Clifford Webb
Leyland Cars yesterday announced price increases averaging 6.45 per cent from Monday. But, surprisingly, the biggest price increase was by a British manufacturer in recent years.

The price increases are expected to have a significant impact on the car market.

Leyland is one of the leading car manufacturers in the UK.

Going for growth?

187.1
171.5
151.1
136.6
... then see your broker about

The chart shows a steady upward trend in the index over time.

Investors are encouraged to consider growth opportunities.

Harland to make parts for motor cycles

Belfast shipbuilders Harland and Wolff diversified into the world of motor cycles with the announcement yesterday of a new subsidiary, Hawk Products.

The new subsidiary will focus on producing high-quality motor cycle parts.

Harland and Wolff have a long history of excellence in shipbuilding.

ITV boosts revenue

Advertising revenue earned by the independent television companies continued to rise in December to bring the total for the month up by 39 per cent on December, 1976. The figures released by the Independent Television Companies Association at £22m bring the total for the year to £220.7m—a rise of nearly 30 per cent on 1976.

ITV's success is a testament to its commitment to quality programming.

The company is looking forward to a bright future in the years ahead.

UNIT TRUSTS		RELIANCE MUTUAL INSURANCE	
Bank Base Rates Table	17	Bank Base Rates Table	17
Unit Trusts: M & G	19	Unit Trusts: M & G	19

Going for growth?

187.1
171.5
151.1
136.6
... then see your broker about

the performance of Reliance Property Fund

For your immediate consideration, the fund, which offers both lump sum and regular property investment facilities, has shown an average growth rate from November 1974 to November 1977 of 11.0% per annum equivalent to 16.7% before tax.

RELIANCE MUTUAL

Reliance Mutual Insurance Society Limited • Reliance House
Tunbridge Wells • Kent TN11 6ET • Tunbridge Wells (0892) 2271

Grouse

The armchair holiday season is in full swing again. Perhaps, this year, you are contemplating an advance booking charter flight to take you to exotic parts somewhat more cheaply than the scheduled air services. ABC flights must be booked 45 days in advance in order to obtain the cheap fare concession.

But you can come unstuck. Although ABCs must be booked at least 45 days in advance, the operator arranging the flight can change or cancel arrangements up to 30 days before takeoff. Frequently the changes are minimal, confined to shifting flights a couple of days either way. But it can happen that charters are cancelled altogether.

The operator may or may not offer a similar alternative—most attempt to do so—but the fact remains that if nothing suitable is offered the holidaymaker only gets his money back.

If all this happens a month before the start of the holiday, the unfortunate traveller, who has to fit in with work and family arrangements will find it impossible to obtain an alternative ABC flight within the previous timescale. He may have got his money back—but he cannot buy a similar product with it.

It seems ridiculous that there is no obligation on the operator to give earlier warning of changes or cancellations. If it is an ABC flight it is obvious that the operating group will in fact know 45 days in advance whether it will need to change its arrangements because of poor response or other reasons.

So why shouldn't what passengers there are be given the same information then? That would at least give the holidaymaker on an inflexible schedule a chance to scramble for an alternative cheap charter flight elsewhere if the operator simply offers him his money back.

Fixed interest investment

Long end of the market looks more promising

Those who made a killing in the gilt market last year and opted to put the proceeds to good use are doubtless well beyond my call now in lands never touched by ice or snow. Presumably, though, there are others who may not yet have cashed in their profits, who have not gone seeking a warming sun, or who may never have owned any gilts in the first place. So, with Christmas and New Year hangovers now no more than a faded memory, let me present you with a new headache.

That headache, very simply, is this: what kind of view should one take of gilt market prospects in 1978?

This time last year any decision to plunge into gilts after the horrors—twisting, pouncing, IMF straitjackets et al—of the previous autumn still carried a degree of risk. But there were at least a number of powerful arguments favouring gilt investment, and the risk/reward ratio was looking extremely attractive.

Not, of course, that many would have predicted at the time that gilt prices would have risen by even half as much over the ensuing 12 months as in fact they have.

The first thing to be said about 1978, is that one is starting from a very different base. Interest rates have already fallen steeply; so too has the rate of inflation. As a result, the possibilities in the gilt market look much more open and the risk/reward ratio for investors is much less favourable than 12 months ago.

In other words, investors

must clear their heads of the euphoria of 1977 and put their feet back firmly on the ground. When many analysts were gazing into their crystal balls just before Christmas, what most of them were seeing was a further fall in interest rates and the rate of inflation in the opening months of 1978.

But beyond that, as the year wore on, as economic recovery gained momentum and higher wage awards worked their way through into prices, they tended to see rising short-term interest rates and a return of the inflation rate into double figures.

This boiled down to saying that there was probably a final leg of the bull market in gilts still to come. From spring onwards, however, the tendency would be for gilt yields to rise—and capital values to slip.

Where does that leave us? Primarily, it suggests that the long end of the market is likely to be more interesting than the short end. For if there are signs that the annual rate of inflation can in fact be held in single figures, then "longs" should improve further. The scope for improvement will depend, however, on how movements in money market interest rates affect shorter-dated stocks.

Yields of over 11 per cent on high coupon "longs" have, of course, just been made that much more attractive by the latest cut in the building society investment rate to the gross equivalent of 8.3 per cent.

That said, I cannot stress too strongly a number of points.

The first, as I have already said, is that the risk/reward ratio is not as favourable as a year ago. Given that, those for whom capital security is important may well find that shorter-dated stocks are a better bet. Investors then know that at a certain date in, say, three, five or even seven years, the stock will be redeemed by the Government at par.

Having mentioned par, I must also point out that all the highest coupon stocks are now selling above their par value. This is not necessarily a disadvantage, but it does mean that were you to hold stock to redemption you would in effect have been consuming part of your capital in order to maximize your annual income.

Finally, one of the most important considerations in gilt-edged investment is the tax position of the investor. The stock showing the highest yield on our prices page may not be the right stock for you to buy. Indeed, the higher your tax rate the more likely that this is precisely the stock you should not be buying.

Professional advice on the right kind of stock for your particular tax bracket is vital. Any specialist gilt-edged broker can tell you the net yield of a stock at a given tax rate. That will enable you to be in a much better position to weigh the risk of gilt-edged investment against safer investments—such as the tax-free tranche of interest available on some forms of National Savings.

John Whitmore

Healthy housing market at start of index

For the 11 million owner-occupiers in the country and the many more who aspire to home ownership, house prices are of consuming interest and importance. To help them identify house price trends on both a national and a regional level, The Times has joined forces with the Halifax Building Society to publish a new and up-to-date index of average house prices and other house price statistics.

The Halifax is the largest building society in the world and its lending accounts for about 18 per cent of loans by the entire building society movement. All the statistics in the tables are based upon the house prices prospective purchasers quote when they seek an advance at the mortgage approval stage. The actual number of Halifax mortgages approved a month provides a sample of over 14,000 house prices upon which the index is based.

The main index will appear monthly with a base date fixed on house prices at the end of 1977 and covers the prices of all the second-hand houses (new houses have been deliberately excluded) against which the Halifax mortgage mortgage approvals. The index is an average of all the house prices covered in that month and therefore will reflect changes in the mix of properties mortgaged.

How up to date are the house prices? There is an inevitable time-lag of three to four weeks between the time a house first appears on the market at a price fixed by the seller usually with assistance from an estate agent, and the time a purchaser finally obtains the promise of a mortgage from a building society. (Another 10 weeks is needed to take the transaction up to final completion.)

So the index we publish today, based on approvals made last December, will in fact represent the kind of prices being agreed between seller and buyer at the end of November.

The index has been taken back to the middle of 1973 when the housing market was beginning to recover from the 1974 recession in the housing market. The historical index figures are shown on a quarterly basis until the last 12 months when a monthly figure and price are shown.

In addition, the table gives the percentage change over

three different periods, one year, six months and three months. It is these rises and falls which should help both prospective buyers and sellers and the merely curious to identify the trends in house prices and to put a sudden leap over one period into the more general perspective.

New house prices have been given a separate index which will appear quarterly. This not only improves the size of the sample in each period but also takes account of the fact that new house prices are more fluid and subject to more variations than non-new houses. Again percentage rises over the preceding six months and year are shown.

In addition to the two indices we will also be publishing, on a monthly basis, a list of average regional prices for second-hand houses. Halifax's dominant position in the building society movement enables it to provide a representative breakdown of regional house prices.

Using the Government economic planning regions to divide the country, the Halifax's geographical distribution of mortgage offers compares closely to the distribution of population. Later, in conjunction with other data, the index will be extended and added to the range of house price indices.

Early predictions that 1977 would be a poor year for mortgage funds were proved wrong—and so were the many pundits who predicted a rapid rise in house prices during the year. A steady recovery in building society net receipts, plus a sharp fall in lending rates, was reflected in increased activity in the housing market, but not in sharply higher prices.

By December the Halifax felt able to relax its restrictions on mortgage funds, which has enabled borrowers to trade up, and this is to some extent reflected in the increase in the index last month and the 9.6 per cent increase in the index over the year compared with the more modest 12-month increase recorded in November. New house prices were depressed at the beginning of last year, but showed a steady recovery from spring onwards. Similarly, house building activity is also picking up. House builders seem to be taking advantage of the present strong housing demand to restore eroded profit margins and some sharp movements in house prices are being reported, with builders using the new year as an opportunity to announce a price increase.

Margaret Stone

The Times/Halifax house price index

Monthly index of average prices of second-hand houses (Dec 1977=100)

	Index	Average price £	% change over preceding 1 year	6 months	3 months
1975 June	86.0	12,648			
Sept	85.4	12,582			
Dec	85.3	12,533			
1976 Mar	87.7	12,896			
June	92.1	13,544			
Sept	92.0	13,531			
Dec	91.2	13,413	7.02	-0.97	-0.87
1977 Jan	90.7	13,340	5.54	-3.73	-0.15
Feb	89.1	13,105	3.79	-3.73	-3.36
Mar	89.8	13,197	2.33	-2.47	-1.61
April	92.6	13,617	2.37	1.92	2.08
May	92.7	13,630	1.55	0.52	4.01
June	93.3	14,011	3.45	4.46	6.17
July	96.1	14,122	1.91	5.66	3.71
Aug	95.8	14,234	4.56	8.62	4.43
Sept	96.9	14,249	5.30	7.97	1.70
Oct	98.0	14,402	7.78	5.76	1.98
Nov	99.2	14,580	7.52	6.97	2.43
Dec	100.0	14,701	9.60	4.92	3.17

Average regional prices of secondhand houses

	Dec £	Previous month £	change % over 3 months
North	12,283	12,603	1.47
Yorkshire and Humberside	10,487	11,023	-1.41
North West	12,333	11,944	2.61
East Midlands	11,959	11,948	-6.38
West Midlands	14,946	14,624	8.49
East Anglia	13,578	13,363	-0.97
Wales	12,755	12,584	2.34
South West	15,404	15,222	6.67
South East	18,682	18,649	2.72
Greater London	18,618	17,975	6.51
Scotland	14,818	14,426	2.22

Quarterly Index of Average Prices of New Houses (Dec 1977=100)

Quarter ended	Index	Average Price £	% change over preceding 1 year	6 months
1975 Sept	80.4	13,211		
Dec	81.0	13,311		
1976 Mar	82.4	13,537		
June	86.4	14,200		
Sept	88.2	14,491		
Dec	87.7	14,417	8.31	1.53
1977 Mar	89.4	14,685	8.48	1.34
June	91.8	15,089	6.26	4.66
Sept	95.7	15,733	8.57	7.14
Dec	100	16,435	14.00	8.92

Based on prices paid for houses by Halifax borrowers.

Round-up

Review of the unit year • U tax plea

The unit trust industry in 1977 in much better shape than it started. But it cannot have had a really good year.

True, total sales were £333m to £372m in 1977, the highest level recorded from the boom year of 1976. But the United Kingdom market performed well for most of the year by around a third and of have expected the unit funds to match, if not the sales levels achieved last boom.

The picture is really enlivened by the high level of repurchases. These ran at £166m for the year, well up on £136m in 1976. During some months, particularly the earlier part, the worryingly high level of redemptions.

The theory in the industry is that as share prices rose, unit trust investors who bought during a previous boom saw a good chance to get their original purchase—and did so in their droves. There are signs of shake-outs could be over. The figures for repurchases, while showing a small unit sales from the previous months' levels also show repurchases were well below £200m in 1977, net new investment in final month at £20.3m to £15m.

But it is disappointing record last year's total investment at just £11 billion, the lowest since the early 1970s. In 1974, despite launch of 19 new unit funds in the wake of a United Kingdom stock market crash.

It could well be that improvement in every possible income this year led to renewed interest in unit trusts, although the long-term holders who had been in since the 1973 collapse stockmarket prices to sell units may perhaps not be tempted back again.

The Unit Trust Association asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer to modify the unit capital gains tax interest of the industry's investor who is, it is claimed, a fiscal disadvantage to his shareholders. The present position is that investors with disposals of more than £1,000 have complete exemption from capital gains tax. But because the unit trust itself pays a concessional rate of capital gains tax, the small unitholder, access to the trust, has borne the tax on the disposal of the underlying assets.

The UTA is calling for an end to the present arrangement over unfranked income from shares or property, which is taxed at high corporate rates (52 per cent) in hands of unit trust funds. Individual investors pay only 30 per cent income tax.

Although there are some tax advantages, such as the fact that unit trusts are exempt from the tax regulations restricting the growth of funds in the United Kingdom.

Building societies and insurance companies have been asked to increase their contributions to the All-Industry Building Society, and the Weinberg managing director of Hambro Life. An approved unit trust has got together to provide a new form of channelling funds both building societies and offices.

There is nothing particularly new in the concept of dipping a large sum into a unit trust share account and having the unit trust make contributions from either a cash or the interest into another form of contractual savings. The societies have in the past used the device to some effect. Save-As-You-Earn contracts.

It is, however, the first time that this particular kind of unit trust has been chosen to provide retirement benefits. The plan is that investors should deposit £1,000, and £1,000 an Alliance share account. Alliance will then feed interest into a Hambro I self-employed pensions plan. Such contributions are free tax.

At the end of the year, the building society capital intact and interest bearing, and in addition the investor's annuity payment from the self-employed plan with a cash lump sum.

The scheme is slightly flexible as it stands—investors can't make variable contributions, for example, nor do Alliance offer the service from a term share account—apart from it is a neat little scheme which seems to benefit everybody. Hambro and Alliance have found a new form of marketing and the investment makes his capital work harder for him.

Lloyds Bank is to finally follow its three big rivals with a cut in the interest rate on persons' loans. The true rate of interest varies depending on the repayment period, which is between six months and three years. If the case of a £1,000 loan repayable over two years, the true rate of interest will now be 14.7 per cent compared with 16.7 per cent.

THE TIMES
1000
1977-1978

Turnover... Profit... Capitalisation

The world's leading annual industrial and financial review lists and analyses:

- ★ The Top 1000 UK Companies
- ★ The leading UK clearing banks, finance houses, accepting houses, insurance companies etc.
- ★ Major world companies: The 500 largest European companies, plus American, Japanese, Canadian, Australian, South African and Irish companies
- ★ Largest mergers and leading profit makers

Special new features this year:

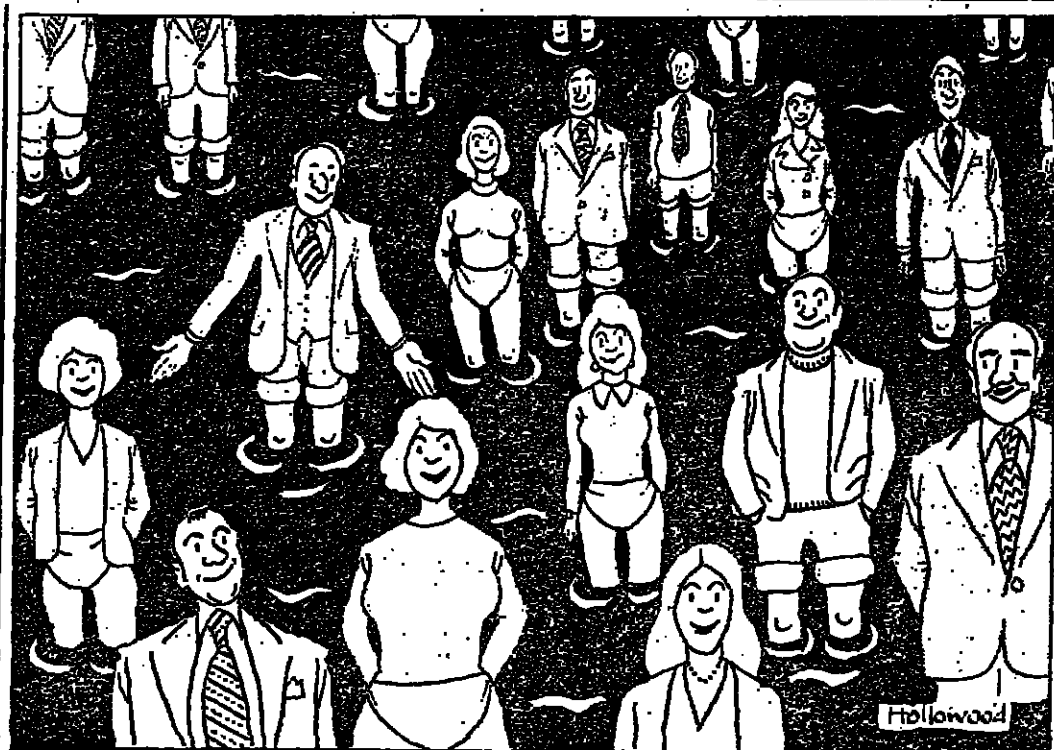
- ★ Top 25 UK advertisers
- ★ List of foreign banks in the UK

PLUS many other informative tables

Published by TIMES BOOKS

£8.50 plus 85p p & p

Available from leading bookshops or by postage only from Times Books, 18 Ogle St, London W1P 7LG



"... yea. Thou hast anointed our feet with oil also, and our legs even unto the knee-caps...."

The North Sea scrolls deciphered

We have news from the excavations currently in train at the Temple of Mammon on the coast of Asia Minor. The Midas Doppelgänger, Emeritus Lecturer of Archaeology at Mae West University, Florida, who is in charge of the expedition, has recently been joined there by Professor Milton Keynes, Regius Professor of Economics at the University of Newport Pagnell.

The dig has revealed many treasures, but none more startling than a mural depicting the illustrated predictions of one Nostradamus, the son of Paradamus, grand vizier of King Malthus Ricardo III. This mural is unique in that the walls on which it is inscribed form a perfect dodecahedron, so that there is no apparent beginning or end to the inscription, thus rendering it almost totally meaningless no matter where the starting point is taken.

In spite of this, Professor Milton Keynes, with a rare combination of dedicated imagination and over-extended imagination, has extracted a message totally relevant to the times we live in.

The message, suitably translated and embellished by Dr Doppelgänger's closest aide, Miss Gloria Darling-Friend, sometimes Regius Personal Assistant to none other than Lt-Col Rudolph Grogg-Bevington, famed savant and patron of the exotic, reads as follows: "Thou unto Thee, Mammon: For Thou art blessed above all Gods."

"Thou hast anointed our heads with oil and our cup runneth over: yea, Thou hast anointed our feet with oil also, and our legs even unto the

knee-caps, so that Thy servant walketh like an astronaut in treacle. The oil with which our cup runneth over is of optimum viscosity and low sulphur content: it gurgles everlastingly from beneath the waves of the sea, from the North and from the East thereof."

"Behold now. Thine oil creepeth up to the navel: lo, verily, it poureth out of our ears."

But how shall Thy servants consume all this richness, O Mammon? Tell us Thy commandments that we may follow them, for all the other nations of the Earth are writhing with covetousness already.

Peradventure, a little time ago the boat was as it might have been upon the other foot: Thy people was an blessing and an abomination unto the Philistines.

Yea, Thy chided us so that the teeth of the Children of Mammon were set on edge: verily we were the laughing-stock of scorpions.

But Thou hast turned upon them like a ramping, and a raging unicorn: we are Thy blessed ones, regardless.

For we have not spun, yet we are reaping; neither have we hunted nor have we gathered, but we are feasting: glorious is the come-uppance of the unfaithful.

But lo, we implore Thee, say Thine end a little: for Thy loving-kindness is overwhelming.

For behold now there is stored up so much gold and silver and precious jewels in Thy secret places: that verily those who would hammer with the hammer and sickle with the sickle and fabricate goods for our neighbours are unable so to do.

Because our neighbours have not the wherewithal with which to make payment: so costly are the goods of our fabrication. Thou shalt be merciful: for shouldst thou not be merciful to the people of all the time.

So now we deemeth it meet that we should recite Thy beautiful mercies: for shouldst we not bathe in asses' milk if we have asses, but no water?

So we entreat Thee, speak to us even as a Dutch uncle: Thy servant is as a child who desireth to blow a fiver but knowest not upon what he shouldst blow it so that he should be no more.

For some say that Thy farness should be used in helping the lame duck over the stile. While some cry out that, nay, the lame ducks shall be banished to the outer darkness.

Oh Mammon, how difficult it is to read Thy testimonies: yea Thy commandments may be perfect, but they are inscrutable as the mysteries of Thy very Nature.

For alas, we are a perverse generation and though we love Thee yet do we not follow perfectly the unseen hand of Thy markets: and thus we are aware of the truth of Thy mysteries.

So it is that Thy prophet foretelleth that there will be much weeping and wailing among the people: since they will never agree on the interpretation of Thy word before the time cometh when Thine oil floweth no more.

Then shall it be that Thy people slip gazing into the sea: because Thou wilt withdraw the sunshine of Thy smile and, alas, we shall be in a whole new ball game."

Francis Kinsman

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Investment trusts

Over-stressed discounts?

The fact that investment trust shares do not properly reflect the progress of net asset values is one that has long been a source of pain to both shareholders and fund managers. The basic surplus of investment trust shares is one reason. Another is the attention paid by the stock market to the discount at the expense of the performance of asset values.

On one level the investment trust market is sophisticated—asset values and discounts are paraded to professional investors daily. It is possible to see an asset value which is not reflected in the share price or "expensive" in relation to average discounts.

On another level this kind of analysis is extremely primitive because it frequently means that a particularly good or bad asset performance is not reflected in the share price.

Stockbrokers Capel Cure Myers have recently produced a list of twenty top and bottom performers in 1977 in terms of both asset and share price performance.

The tables to which I have added each share's discount at the year end—illustrate the strongly held belief of Capel Cure's research department that investment trusts are not adequately rewarded for their asset performance not adequately penalized in the investment trust market.

Looking at the top performers among the investment trusts capitalized at over £10m the winners seem to be those trusts which have achieved the best asset growth.

As one might expect in a year when the British stock market boomed and Wall Street floundered the top 20 United Kingdom oriented trusts with the exception of Atlantic Assets, which traditionally keeps a very high proportion of its holdings overseas, particularly in the United States market.

Atlantic Assets is a rather special trust, that tends to put all its investment eggs into one or two baskets, a policy that has been uncomfortable in some years (two years ago net assets were heavily invested on the trusts holdings in Haw Par, of Slater Walker notoriety, and ailing merchant bank Edward Bates) but as dramatically successful in others, like 1977.

Clearly a year when the United Kingdom stockmarket was in a bull phase, and the investment trust sector was recovering from a massive fall in share prices and an historically wide discount of prices on assets, share prices could be expected to show some of the actual increase in underlying values.

But there are oddities in the table. Throgmorton Trust, which has over the years proved itself to be one of the best performers, second in the list of asset performance but way down the list in fifth place for share price performance.

With Throgmorton, which invariably has a higher than average yield to offer, the share price discount would appear to be the

INVESTMENT TRUST TABLE				
(Net asset value (NAV) performance from 31/12/76 to 31/12/77)				
Top performers	NAV	Price	Price	Discount
	%	%	ranking	%
Meldrum	+71	+72	2	24.6
Throgmorton	+53	+59	15	15.1
Atlantic Assets	+47	+73	1	26.2
City of London Brew	+46	+62	11	18.0
Globe	+45	+57	17	18.4
Alisa	+40	+68	4	21.4
Moorside	+40	+62	10	26.0
Atlas Electric	+39	+51	21	21.1

level of the discount—just over 15 per cent at the end of the year, against a market average of 21 per cent. What the market was looking at here was the relatively expensive looking discount rather than the quality of asset performance.

This sort of computation might make more sense if there was some uniformity in the discounts accorded those trusts that have achieved higher net asset growth, or some meaningful differentiation between the discounts of the most and the least successful. But not so.

But the really galling feature of these performance tables for the investment trust manager is the behaviour of the companies with a heavy North American content.

Naturally these trusts steal the limelight as far as last year's bottom performers go. Scottish United, for instance, had just over half its assets in the United States at the calendar year end and all the groups shown in the top twenty had at least a third invested there.

These groups, of course, started off the year with much higher percentage holdings in America—for while that market has performed badly, the United Kingdom has done well, boosting the size of the British content in year-end portfolios.

The largest proportion then of the assets of these companies must, for most of the year, have been moving with the Wall Street—either downwards or sideways, and yet all the share prices in this category managed a rise despite the fact that the three worst performers showed a fall in net assets, while the rest only saw an increase of 6 per cent in assets at best.

Because of Wall Street's predicament, and the bullishness of the United Kingdom by comparison, one might have expected to see fundamental differences in the discounts of the top and bottom trusts last year.

But, if anything, the discounts of the bottom performers in the United States oriented trusts seem to be smaller than those of their more successful rivals. The range for the ten worst performers in terms of asset performance is from 16 to 21 per cent, leaving out Edinburgh, the outlier, which was a big situation.

The United Kingdom stockmarket had its traditional Christmas mini boom in the final weeks of the year and share prices rose. The United States oriented trusts rose along with the rest of the

Investor's week

Buyers thin on the ground despite a spate of bid activity

Bids, denials, rumours and speculation fuelled most of the main rises and falls in stock markets this week.

With few buyers and as the week wore on over fewer sellers, second line shares claimed most of the limelight leaving many "blue chips" lower on the week.

Trade figures, well below market expectations, gave the index an initial knock on the first day of the new account but as the economic news improved through the week the FT Ordinary Share Index closed 6.7 points better at 487.6.

Glits paralleled the fortunes of equities. After losing ground on Monday and Tuesday both "shorts" and "longs" came off the worst ending the week on a better note than they started.

Motor distributor Pride & Clark, which showed the greatest gain of the week, shot up 25p to 57p on Monday's news of a bid from Inchcape while London Pavilion also reached its year's peak after Mr Victor Sandelson's takeover terms.

Elsewhere big name shares such as Glaxo at 53p and Metal Box at 30p registered double figure losses but some after-hours buying left ICI, Unilever and BAT Industries off the bottom.

The poor trade figures tended to overshadow Tuesday's business which was again thin. Bid news of the day centred round Henry Wigfall. A rise of 8p to 24p following an offer from Comer was a market signal that something more is expected.

However a profits warning from the chairman of Bass Charrington took the froth off the breweries sector and it was not until after-hours news on Thursday that Allied was to be allowed a 2p a pint interim rise that shares in this sector saw much recovery.

A late announcement that Distillers is to increase the price of its exports topped up whisky shares on Thursday and this sector went even better at one point yesterday as investors realized the implications for the other major exporters in the whisky trade.

Alison Mitchell

MAIN CHANGES OF THE WEEK

RISES				
Year's high	Year's low	Company	Movement	Comment
83p	38p	Bejam	7p to 74p	Takeover talk
281p	88p	Brown Brown	1p to 24p	Ahead of figures
522p	101p	Pride & Clark	25p to 57p	Sid from Inchcape
180p	73p	Vesper	32p to 182p	Nationalization compensation hopes
200p	93p	Wolseley-Hughes	12p to 200p	Speculative interest
FALLS				
82p	41p	Fluidrive	11p to 71p	Cautious statement
161p	100p	Hawson Trust	17p to 131p	Profit warning
300p	89p	Hawson	15p to 89p	Weak market sector
326p	78p	Oil Explor	32p to 78p	Fairly bid hopes
80p	30p	Ratcliffe	5p to 7p	Profit taking

Insurance

Be a lender and solve gift tax problems

Many of the suggestions for mitigating capital transfer tax revolve round the gift exemption whereby everybody can give away up to £2,000 a year, free from tax. An alternative is that money should be lent on an interest-free basis. There need not be, however, a loss of net income.

Vanbrugh Life and some other offices selling unit-linked single premium policies have a vested interest in suggesting that, instead of giving away £2,000 a year to a son or daughter, an interest-free loan repayable on demand should be given.

For instance, an individual with a potential capital transfer tax liability can make an interest-free loan, repayable on demand, of £40,000 to his

son. This money can then be used by the son to buy a single premium unit-linked bond on his own life. Each year £2,000 (that is 5 per cent of the initial purchase price) can be withdrawn by the son; this can be repaid to his father as repayment of the loan.

The practical effect is that the son has £40,000 invested in his name and no capital transfer tax has had to be paid. The annual withdrawals at the time are free from tax, although there will be a tax set-off when the bond is realized. In this case the tax charge will be based on the son's income rather than the father's—which may not necessarily be an advantage.

This tax is calculated in the following way. The amount realized has added to it the withdrawals made over the years. The original purchase price is deducted from that total, and the resultant figure represents the gain which has been made.

That gain is divided by the number of full years for which the bond was in force. The figure produced in that way is added to the son's income for the year in which the bond is cashed. In that way the rate of income tax (basic rate plus tax) is established and that rate is then applied to the whole of the gain.

The father has disposed of £40,000 without incurring capital transfer tax liability at the time, but over the 20-year period, he will receive £2,000 a year tax free (because it is repayment of a loan) which is probably more than he would have obtained net of tax, at least in the early years, from investing the £40,000.

There is the possibility, of course, that the father may die within the 20-year period. In his will he can leave the balance of the loan to his wife, the scheme can then continue for the benefit of the widow. Or the outstanding balance could be left to the son—in which event probably there would be a capital transfer tax liability.

If there is a change in circumstances the bond can be cashed and the outstanding loan can be repaid. Even if the scheme has been running for only a few years, there will have been worthwhile advantages.

The CTT position is that the benefit of the loan is taken to be the net interest which the father could expect to receive on a normal personal loan, repayable on demand, after the deduction of tax—assuming that the interest formed the highest part of his total income.

In this case, therefore, we could think of a notional rate of interest of, say, 12 per cent giving a gross figure of £4,800. Dependent on the father's marginal tax rate this may come down to well below the annual exemption limit of £2,000.

At the outset it would not be possible to claim exemption as part of "normal expenditure" but this is something which might become so as the freeing move of the annual exemption for other gifts.

This is not an all-purpose solution to CTT problems. But, in some circumstances, it could prove useful—where income is a problem for the donor and making the loan will attract little or no capital gains tax.

John Drummond

M&G OFFERS AMERICA

Many experts now regard Wall Street as more attractive than London. Investors who buy units in American trusts in the next few months should be sitting on a reasonable profit by the end of 1978.

Many experts now regard Wall Street as more attractive than London. Investors who buy units in American trusts in the next few months should be sitting on a reasonable profit by the end of 1978.

Two ways to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

I wish to invest in M&G American & General Fund. Complete this section to receive a Capital Investment (minimum £500).

Investment trust valuations

Price except where stated (see note 1)

Company	Date of Valuation	Annual Dividend	Net Asset Value after deducting current charges at valuation	Investment Currency premium (see note 2)	Total Assets Less current liabilities
14.7 Alliance	30.12.77	6.35	274.1	282.5	23.8
14.8 Anglo-American	31.12.77	2.84	119.8	125.2	11.7
14.9 Anglo-Saxon	31.12.77	1.8	157.1	160.0	11.9
14.10 Claverhouse	31.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.11 Crowninshield	31.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.12 Edinburgh	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.13 First Scot	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.14 Guardian	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.15 Investors Corp	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.16 London & Holyrood	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.17 London & Montrose	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.18 Mercantile	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.19 North Atlantic	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.20 Northern	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.21 Scottish United	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.22 Scottish Western	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.23 Sterling	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.24 Throgmorton	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.25 United British Sec	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.26 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.27 US Debenture Corp	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.28 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.29 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.30 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.31 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.32 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.33 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.34 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.35 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.36 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.37 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.38 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.39 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.40 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.41 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.42 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.43 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.44 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.45 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.46 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.47 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.48 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.49 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.50 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.51 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.52 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.53 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.54 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.55 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.56 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.57 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.58 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.59 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.60 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.61 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.62 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.63 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.64 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.65 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.66 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.67 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.68 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.69 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.70 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.71 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.72 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.73 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.74 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.75 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.76 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.77 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.78 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.79 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—
14.80 US & Gen	30.12.77	2.3	103.7	103.7	—

Stock markets

Small buyers gain the upper hand

Another set of retail prices showing a slowing in the pace of inflation and continuing supply factors enabled small buyers to gain the upper hand at the end of the first week of the account. Dealers said it was the absence of sellers as much as any other factor which helped sentiment and the FT index, though off the top, closed 1.5 up to 487.6, a rise of 6.7 over the week.

Government stocks had an uncertain widespread talk of a new "top" stock which, in the event, failed to materialize. This early nervousness was later compounded by profit taking and, by the close, prices were at a quarter lower across the board.

Though another cut in MLR was not expected the Treasury Bill rate came within an ace of calling for one and dealers are convinced that another half point will come off next week.

Confirmation by Trafalgar House of around £60m worth of property sales gave the shares a lift of 10p to 165p and

little above most expectations, while suppliers like Marley 3p to 35p, Johnson-Richards Tiles 4p to 33p and Armistage Shanks 4p to 75p were all well supported. After an encouraging broker's circular Magnet Southern went several pence better to 193p while construction group Newwest Holet gained 2p to 93p after news that the group is now a "close" company.

News of terms worth around £2m for R. & A. G. Crossland, speculatively firm of late, raised the shares 21p to 383p. Bidder Benjamin Priest dipped 3p to 76p in spite of accompanying profits and forecasts.

News that ATV would not raise its terms for Madame Tussaud's added 2p to 112p for ATV A* while Tussaud's stayed unmoved at 65p. The prospect of victory did nothing for S. Pearson 44p.

Read International at 143p are usefully up on the 130p of December 14 when we reported here, on one or two brokers' stressing recovery scope. The impression is that the final dividend will be halved, but not passed.

Norcross were firm at 90p. The other day some 30 fund managers attended a seminar at Laurence Prust. Norcross men gave the impression that all divisions are going well and that even Hygiene in kitchen furniture is breaking even.

Grand Metropolitan added 2p to 105p on slightly better-than-expected results in a mixed drinks sector. Allied was unchanged at 87p while Bass Charrington closed a penny off.

Thorn Electrical rose 2p to 370p. A week ago they were 362p after a 14p fall on sluggish profits and consumer spending gloom. It is thought, however, that there has been a sudden and powerful surge in Thorn's trading since then. The stage seems set for a boom.

at 149p. Guinness at 188p, and Scottish & Newcastle at 69p showed gains of a penny or two while Vaux added 7p to 350p after its fall earlier in the week.

The consortium bid for London Sumatra added 36p to the shares at 130p and excited interest. Malayalam, up 11p to 32p, Harrods 7p stronger at 92p and Harrods Estates 10p better at 76p.

News that Gadek Malaysia is planning to move to the Far East pushed the shares up 5p to 57p.

Wace Group, at 36p, did little after the announcement of former directors' share disposals while Tecalemit was speculatively supported at 122p, a gain of 7p.

Bur Hignall 6p to 26p, and Pauls & Whites 7p to 12p both succumbed to profit taking after recent gains. Three

mentioned here recently as potential takeover candidates all made further progress. These were Dawson International, up 6p to 112p, Toy & Co 3p to 47p and George Oliver at 50p.

Among the "blue chips" both Unilever at 510p and Rank at 258p were unchanged. ICI gained 2p to 346p and BAT in

Nottingham Manufacturing hardened 1p to 108p. This possibly the best, and certainly the best known, of the Marks & Spencer suppliers benefits from the store chain's going in sales. Profits last year probably rose from £11.3m to at least £14m and could approach £17m this year. Even more to the point, cash balances at the last count of £4p a share would transform these profits once spent on acquisitions.

Industries eased a couple of pence to 275p.

Stores featured Burton 'A' up 8p to 127p on speculative demand and Allied Retailers which continued to go ahead to 194p a gain of 6p.

Equity turnover on January 19 was £95.56m (15,085 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were 1,231.

Shell, BAT, ICI, Marks & Spencer, British Land, Delta Metal, Reed International, Trafalgar House and BP.

Plans for emigration by Gadek Malaysia

Plans for a reconstruction and emigration were announced yesterday by Gadek Malaysia, which is registered in the United Kingdom but is in the cultivation of rubber and oil palms in Malaysia.

Under the scheme it is proposed that Gadek's 4.55m shares should be divided into two classes. One will comprise the 2.23m shares (or 49.1 per cent of the capital) owned by Batu Kawan Berhad and the other the balance of 2.32m shares (50.9 per cent), being the publicly-held shares.

The shareholders of each class will then exchange their shares for shares and debenture stock of a new Malaysian company, Gadek Malaysia Berhad.

Terms for the publicly-held shares will be: 37 new GMB shares of \$1(M) and \$90(M) nominal of new 10 per cent first mortgage debenture stock, 193-28 of GMB for every 100 Gadek shares.

In the case of the Batu Kawan-held shares, the terms will be on an inversely proportionate basis—90 GMB shares and \$37(M) nominal of debenture stock for every 100 shares.

Following completion of the scheme, Gadek Malaysia and its subsidiary, Gadek Rubber Estate, will be wound up and their assets transferred in specie to the new company. The result in the issue of 2.86m GMB shares and \$2.91(M) nominal of new debenture of which the holders of the publicly-held Gadek shares and Batu Kawan will receive 2.8 of the new shares and 70.1 per cent respectively of the new shares and 71.6 per cent and 28.4 per cent respectively of the new stock.

When the scheme becomes effective, Batu Kawan has undertaken to return to the 70.1 per cent of the new shares which it will receive, shares representing 30 per cent of the new shares for resale to indigenous Malaysian investors at par—\$1(M) per share.

Plans for a reconstruction and emigration were announced yesterday by Gadek Malaysia, which is registered in the United Kingdom but is in the cultivation of rubber and oil palms in Malaysia.

Under the scheme it is proposed that Gadek's 4.55m shares should be divided into two classes. One will comprise the 2.23m shares (or 49.1 per cent of the capital) owned by Batu Kawan Berhad and the other the balance of 2.32m shares (50.9 per cent), being the publicly-held shares.

The shareholders of each class will then exchange their shares for shares and debenture stock of a new Malaysian company, Gadek Malaysia Berhad.

Terms for the publicly-held shares will be: 37 new GMB shares of \$1(M) and \$90(M) nominal of new 10 per cent first mortgage debenture stock, 193-28 of GMB for every 100 Gadek shares.

In the case of the Batu Kawan-held shares, the terms will be on an inversely proportionate basis—90 GMB shares and \$37(M) nominal of debenture stock for every 100 shares.

Following completion of the scheme, Gadek Malaysia and its subsidiary, Gadek Rubber Estate, will be wound up and their assets transferred in specie to the new company. The result in the issue of 2.86m GMB shares and \$2.91(M) nominal of new debenture of which the holders of the publicly-held Gadek shares and Batu Kawan will receive 2.8 of the new shares and 70.1 per cent respectively of the new shares and 71.6 per cent and 28.4 per cent respectively of the new stock.

When the scheme becomes effective, Batu Kawan has undertaken to return to the 70.1 per cent of the new shares which it will receive, shares representing 30 per cent of the new shares for resale to indigenous Malaysian investors at par—\$1(M) per share.

Plans for a reconstruction and emigration were announced yesterday by Gadek Malaysia, which is registered in the United Kingdom but is in the cultivation of rubber and oil palms in Malaysia.

Under the scheme it is proposed that Gadek's 4.55m shares should be divided into two classes. One will comprise the 2.23m shares (or 49.1 per cent of the capital) owned by Batu Kawan Berhad and the other the balance of 2.32m shares (50.9 per cent), being the publicly-held shares.

The shareholders of each class will then exchange their shares for shares and debenture stock of a new Malaysian company, Gadek Malaysia Berhad.

Terms for the publicly-held shares will be: 37 new GMB shares of \$1(M) and \$90(M) nominal of new 10 per cent first mortgage debenture stock, 193-28 of GMB for every 100 Gadek shares.

In the case of the Batu Kawan-held shares, the terms will be on an inversely proportionate basis—90 GMB shares and \$37(M) nominal of debenture stock for every 100 shares.

Following completion of the scheme, Gadek Malaysia and its subsidiary, Gadek Rubber Estate, will be wound up and their assets transferred in specie to the new company. The result in the issue of 2.86m GMB shares and \$2.91(M) nominal of new debenture of which the holders of the publicly-held Gadek shares and Batu Kawan will receive 2.8 of the new shares and 70.1 per cent respectively of the new shares and 71.6 per cent and 28.4 per cent respectively of the new stock.

When the scheme becomes effective, Batu Kawan has undertaken to return to the 70.1 per cent of the new shares which it will receive, shares representing 30 per cent of the new shares for resale to indigenous Malaysian investors at par—\$1(M) per share.

Plans for a reconstruction and emigration were announced yesterday by Gadek Malaysia, which is registered in the United Kingdom but is in the cultivation of rubber and oil palms in Malaysia.

Under the scheme it is proposed that Gadek's 4.55m shares should be divided into two classes. One will comprise the 2.23m shares (or 49.1 per cent of the capital) owned by Batu Kawan Berhad and the other the balance of 2.32m shares (50.9 per cent), being the publicly-held shares.

The shareholders of each class will then exchange their shares for shares and debenture stock of a new Malaysian company, Gadek Malaysia Berhad.

Terms for the publicly-held shares will be: 37 new GMB shares of \$1(M) and \$90(M) nominal of new 10 per cent first mortgage debenture stock, 193-28 of GMB for every 100 Gadek shares.

In the case of the Batu Kawan-held shares, the terms will be on an inversely proportionate basis—90 GMB shares and \$37(M) nominal of debenture stock for every 100 shares.

Following completion of the scheme, Gadek Malaysia and its subsidiary, Gadek Rubber Estate, will be wound up and their assets transferred in specie to the new company. The result in the issue of 2.86m GMB shares and \$2.91(M) nominal of new debenture of which the holders of the publicly-held Gadek shares and Batu Kawan will receive 2.8 of the new shares and 70.1 per cent respectively of the new shares and 71.6 per cent and 28.4 per cent respectively of the new stock.

When the scheme becomes effective, Batu Kawan has undertaken to return to the 70.1 per cent of the new shares which it will receive, shares representing 30 per cent of the new shares for resale to indigenous Malaysian investors at par—\$1(M) per share.

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

brought a note of firmness throughout the whole sector. Dealers said the news showed up a substantial rise in valuations and shares: to respond most positively to this were Great Portland 10p to 330p after 33p, MIPCO better by 5p to 133p after 128p, Stock Conversion which went to 270p before closing 6p better at 268p and British Land up 2 1/2p to 35 1/2p after 40p. Others strongly supported were Land Securities, 5p to 228p and Bernard Sunley 8p to 228p.

In the related building sector Gough Cooper gained 6p to 83p after figures which were a

£40m City property sale by Trafalgar

Trafalgar House yesterday confirmed the impending sale of two major City of London properties for a total of £40m. Conditional contracts for the sale have been exchanged, Mr Victor Matthews, the group chief executive, revealed, and it is expected that the outstanding conditions will be satisfied in the next few weeks and that completion of the sales will take place immediately thereafter.

In addition Trafalgar is negotiating a number of other significant property sales. In certain cases terms have been agreed although contracts have not yet been exchanged.

The group has been a potential seller of its investment property portfolio for some time and Mr Nigel Brookes,

chairman, pointed out over three years ago that "the reason d'être for a public company holding and developing investment property in this country seems finally to have expired". Last September sales raised around £22m as Trafalgar disposed of a property package including 586,000 sq ft of industrial space and the International Hotel.

Some 32 years on, the group started five major City projects and these take in the two sales just announced. The largest of the five is Billiter Buildings at 164,000 sq ft which like 120 Fenchurch Street, the partially let Broad Street House and the yet unfinished Lane House, was completed in 1976. The oldest, the 109,000 sq ft Leadenhall House, was finished in October 1974.

Southern Construction shake-up

A reinforcement of the board and a change of auditors at Southern Construction (Holdings) has followed the discovery of "corporate inadequacies in the company's accounting procedures". These have had the effect of distorting the group's audited results for the whole of 1976 and the unaudited figures for the six months to June 30.

Mr Charles Mitchell, chairman, of this Hampshire-based civil engineering group, says that not enough provision was made for foreseeable losses on contracts, as full account was not taken of information available at the time. Also, a change of accounting policy at a subsidiary relating to the valuation of items of contractors' equipment was adopted in the second half of 1976. This was reflected in stock figures in the accounts for 1976 without reference to the impact of the change.

The interim results made no allowance for an expense item attributable to 1976 which did not accrue in that year. It was not brought to the board's attention until it was too late to include in the results.

Taking these factors into account, the group's profit for 1976 was £150,000 before tax compared with £47,000. The net profit was £105,000 and not £173,000.

They also have the effect of increasing losses for the first half of 1977 from £542,000 to £630,000. After a tax credit of £336,000 there is a loss after tax of £294,000 instead of £242,000.

The board has already appointed a new financial controller and secretary and now Mr T. D. Kennedy, formerly of John Laing, and Mr A. C. Selby have joined the board.

R. Crossland agrees £3m bid from B. Priest

A bumper set of results, a strong forecast and an agreed £3m bid for R. & G. Crossland are announced by Benjamin Priest, the West Midlands group which makes fasteners and pressings. Crossland said earlier this week that it was in talks which might or might not lead to a bid. Now the board of this Staffordshire-based light fittings and plastic mouldings group is backing the Priest terms which are worth 39p a share and which value the group at £15.5m.

A cash alternative gives shareholders slightly more than 36p a share. The basic terms are four Priest shares and 54p cash for every nine Crossland shares. News of the bid pushed the Crossland shares up 1p to 37p, while Priest dropped 5p to 75p.

The Crossland board intends to accept its 1.5 per cent holding, while Astra Industrial Group has given an irrevocable undertaking to accept the cash offer on its 26.6 per cent holdings. Other shareholders intend to accept on a further 18.5 per cent of the equity so Priest is already assured of backing on about 47 per cent of the shares.

The deal with Astra requires

the placing of at least 947,000 new shares in Priest so the Treasury has given permission for Priest to hoist its dividend payments from 6.67p gross to 10p gross over the year to March 31. Profits for the year are expected to reach a record £12m, against £1m last year.

The first six months to September 30 have seen an advance in profits from £432,000 to £550,000 on the back of sales amounting to £6m against £4.2m. The interim dividend goes up from 1.66p to 1.9p gross.

The results include Blackheath Engineering for the first time since its purchase in March last year, but also reflect a drop in revenue of profits by the group as a whole. Part of the growth in turnover reflects the inclusion of special factored items, mainly Fenwick Fork Lift Trucks, which augment the group's range of products. The board notes that the results were achieved at a time of economic uncertainty in which the improvement in general industrial demand failed to improve much. In particular, demand in the fastener industry while has suffered from increased competition abroad.

Gold slightly higher

Chicago, Jan 20.—GOLD prices closed higher in moderate activity. The New York market was closed yesterday due to a severe snowstorm on the east coast of the United States.

Chicago SOYBEANS: Soyabean futures were up 1/4¢ to 1.25¢ a bushel at the close, following the report that the U.S. crop is 1.5 billion bushels, up from 1.4 billion in 1976. Soyabean futures were up 1/4¢ to 1.25¢ a bushel at the close, following the report that the U.S. crop is 1.5 billion bushels, up from 1.4 billion in 1976.

Foreign Exchange

The dollar closed with a rather mixed appearance on foreign exchange markets. The pound was up 0.4 per cent to 2.25, while the yen was up 0.5 per cent to 238. The Swiss franc was up 0.2 per cent to 1.55, while the German mark was up 0.1 per cent to 3.36.

The dollar was up 0.1 per cent to 1.01, while the French franc was up 0.1 per cent to 6.55, while the Italian lira was up 0.1 per cent to 1.36, while the Spanish peseta was up 0.1 per cent to 166.67.

Discount market

To meet a substantial shortage of fresh credit in the discount market yesterday the Bank of England gave help on a large scale. It bought a moderate amount of Treasury bills directly from the houses and also lent a moderate amount of money to the banks at 6 per cent to five or six houses. Even so, it was a difficult fight, with some houses taking advantage of their sturdy balance sheets because 6 per cent would not attract sufficient money in the open market. During the morning, there were times when money could be found at 6 per cent, but most of the day's business was done at the area of 5 1/2 to 6 per cent. Some factors in the market were a substantial Treasury bill take-up and stable expectations of Revenue receipts over Exchequer disbursements.

Two sides of the coin in Regalian Props' interim

By Our Financial Staff

Once again, shareholders in Regalian Properties are presented with two sharply opposing pictures of the results of the interim to September 30 last. They can review the group's progress in the six months and note with despondency that the deficit per share shrank by only 3.62p to 37.6p a share after a pre-tax loss of £1.41m against a loss of £1.56m in the corresponding period of 1976.

Alternatively, shareholders can look solely at the trading performance of the holding company. The view here is very

much rosier with an earnings per share rise from 1.17p to 2.68p on profits from net sales commissions and management fees of £119,000 against £52,000. The discrepancy between the misfortunes of the group and the apparently happy outlook for the company—the recent improvement—is likely to be maintained in the second half of the year, chairman Mr David Goldstone reports—stems from the effective release in March, 1976, of the company's obligations to First National Finance Corporation for the blocks of flats bought in 1972.

RIT consortium offer for Harcross Inv at 90p

A consortium led by Rothschild Investment Trust has said it is prepared to buy up to 30 per cent of the shares in Harcross Investment Trust at 90p a share, compared with the 82p each alternative under the bid from Harrods & Crossfield. Harrods' advisers state they consider the H & C bid to be fair and reasonable in the absence of a higher offer. However, shareholders who intended to accept the H & C cash alternative and can sell to RIT are advised to do so, by the Harcross camp, while those preferring the three-for-13 share alternative are advised to accept the H & C offer.

RIT is making its offer for up to 30 per cent with McLeod Russell and Hume Holdings, in which it has a 25 per cent stake. Together they already hold 12 per cent of Harcross, compared with the 36 per cent held by R. & C. and associates. McLeod Russell is currently bidding for London Sumatra having dropped out of the race for Malayalam, both of which are in the H & C group.

Alcraftfield in talks about Clifton stake

It was disclosed yesterday that talks are on between the board at Alcraftfield, which controls about 54 per cent of the capital of Clifton Investments, and "certain parties" which may lead to the disposal of Alcraftfield of its entire interest in Clifton.

The board of Alcraftfield understands that the parties are not acting in concert and that none of these parties intends to make a bid for the remaining capital of Clifton. A further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Clifton, which is an investment trust, became a subsidiary of Aries Holdings, which is owned by Alcraftfield, in September, 1975.

Gough Cooper surge tops market hopes

Gough Cooper, the housing estate developer, has finally halted the slide in pre-tax profits from a record £3.95m in 1973 to £858,000 last year. Some market expectations are for a rise of at least 20 per cent in the current year.

In the latest 12 months to September 30, Cooper hoisted its pre-tax profits to £1.25m, against market hopes in the process. As a result the shares leapt 8p to 63p. Turnover rose from £17.85m to £22.18m.

The most heartening performance came from its plant-hire and insulation division whose trading profits more than doubled to £292,000.

Spot Position of Sterling

London, Jan 20.—The spot position of sterling was mixed yesterday. The pound was up 0.4 per cent to 2.25, while the yen was up 0.5 per cent to 238. The Swiss franc was up 0.2 per cent to 1.55, while the German mark was up 0.1 per cent to 3.36.

The dollar was up 0.1 per cent to 1.01, while the French franc was up 0.1 per cent to 6.55, while the Italian lira was up 0.1 per cent to 1.36, while the Spanish peseta was up 0.1 per cent to 166.67.

Forward Levels

London, Jan 20.—The forward levels of sterling were mixed yesterday. The pound was up 0.4 per cent to 2.25, while the yen was up 0.5 per cent to 238. The Swiss franc was up 0.2 per cent to 1.55, while the German mark was up 0.1 per cent to 3.36.

The dollar was up 0.1 per cent to 1.01, while the French franc was up 0.1 per cent to 6.55, while the Italian lira was up 0.1 per cent to 1.36, while the Spanish peseta was up 0.1 per cent to 166.67.

Bank Base Rates

ABN Bank 6 1/2%
Barclays Bank 6 1/2%
Consolidated Crds 7 1/2%
First London Sec 6 1/2%
C. H. & Co 6 1/2%
Lloyds Bank 6 1/2%
London Mercantile 6 1/2%
Midland Bank 6 1/2%
Nat Westminster 6 1/2%
Rothschild Accs 6 1/2%
Staley Trust 9 1/2%
TSB 6 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's 6 1/2%

* 7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 5% up to £25,000 5 1/2% over £25,000 5%

ATV loses Tussaud's to S. Pearson

ATV has pulled out of the battle for control of Madame Tussaud's, which owns the famous London waxworks. On Wednesday, S. Pearson raised its offer for Tussaud's to £13.6m and won the board's recommendation. Pearson's new bid topped ATV's offer by almost £1.5m and was more than 40 per cent higher than Pearson's first offer in November.

The board of ATV said it saw "no commercial justification" for increasing its offer and that it had lapsed. Shares in ATV rose by 2p to 112p, while Tussaud's were unchanged at 65p—the price being offered by Pearson.

HAMBRO LIFE

Record new business and premium income for 1977. New annual premium £25.8m (£23.2m). Single premium £48.5m (£43.7m). Sums assured £75m (£52m).

POLISH COPPER LOAN

Loan for steel-making in London with Polish enterprise combine for Copper Mining and Metallurgy in Lubin. Loan to carry split interest rate. Management group has Chase Manhattan as agent.

BOLIVIA CREDIT

Bolivia raising \$155m Eurocredit through banking syndicate led by Citicorp International. Credit for 10 years with spread over LIBOR of 1 1/2 pc for first 3 years rising to 1 1/2 pc for final four.

ANGLO ARGENTINE TRAM

Anglo Argentine Tramways now an authority from Bank of England for proceeds of Argentine investment bills paid this month to be treated as investment currency.

PMA Holdings still in profit

Following its good recovery in 1976-77, P.M.A. Holdings, the furniture group, is still going strong. In the half-year to September 30, it turned a pre-tax loss of £28,000 into a profit of £10,000. Turnover was up from £2.65m to £3.2m. Moreover, the board expects a continuing improvement with profits for the full year being substantially better than the previous year's £62,000 pre-tax. P.M.A. should also be able to manage a solid dividend for the year.

Bernard Wardle expansion

Bernard Wardle has reached agreement with Champion Associated Weavers, a British subsidiary of Champion International Corp, for the purchase of the principal assets of Champion's armoured division. The price will probably be about £2.6m. Armoured produces PVC sheeting and expanded vinyl leathercloth.

Rheinmetall strong on tank gun talk

Frankfurt.—The shares in Rheinmetall Berlin rose sharply in Frankfurt and in Düsseldorf to DM230 on rumours that the company may benefit from the United States Army's decision to select a West German tank gun for the 1980s. Bourne sources said.

No comment was immediately

High	Low	Company	Last Price	Change	Div	Yld	Apr
44	27	Airsprung Ord	41	+2	4.2	10.8	7.3
150	106	Airsprung 131	CULS	140	—	18.4	13.2
39	25	Armistage & Rhodes	36	—	3.3	9.2	15.1
145	105	Bardon Hill	142	—	12.0	8.5	9.8
102	51	Deborah Ord	100	—1	5.1	5.1	8.1
216	103	Denorah 171	CULS	211	—	17.5	8.0
147	120	Frederick Parker	138	—	11.5	8.3	6.7
114	36	Jackson Group	48	—	5.0	10.4	5.6
240	188	Robert Jenkins	110	—2	6.0	5.5	10.1
34	9	Twinklock Ord	316	—	27.0	8.4	5.4
78	54	Twinklock 121	ULS	74	+1	12.0	15.4
74	51	Unilock Holdings	78	—	7.0	9.5	9.2
87	67	Walter Alexander	85	+1	6.4	7.5	6.3

1970	117.80	(83.05.78)	118.63	(24.10)
1975	256.92	(131.78)	61.42	(86.01)
1974	236.18	(23.02.74)	60.18	(22.12)
1973	189.33	(12.01.73)	120.39	(14.12)

* Flat interest yield.

Weekend

SHOP AROUND

Sheila Black

Heals always make a speciality of St Valentine's day. I think few would have time to get delivery of a special padded, patchwork bedspread in varied fabrics of red with appliqué'd white hearts or vice versa, contrasting larger hearts with mini versions. It really is lovely and would look delightful in country cottages with roses round the door (£75.95 plus £1.09). Those placing immediate orders might make it in time.

Do not worry, however, for Heals are selling unusual jewelry, much of it very pretty indeed. The golden chains with golden hearts, filled with resins in red, green or dark blue, are from £16.25 with a single heart to £30.95 for three and there are earrings to match. In silver, the prices are from £6.95—postage is 69p because parcels are insured. The largest heart is a cloisonné enamel, made in Taiwan, according to the methods of the older Chinese courts. Little flowers decorate the hearts, different on each side, which are rimmed with fine decoration looking rather like "8s". They are at present on rather heavy silken cords but, at £14.95 each, they would be worth rehanging on chains which would make them look as pretty as they really are and less clumsy than they appear in a photograph.

Lacquer boxes, heart-shaped, are red with flowers (£11.50 plus 40p). En passant, it is worth saying that these delightful lacquer boxes, in hearts, rounds, rectangles, hexagons and every other shape, are in many gift shops and they please many a recipient.

Witches Brew love potions may not work but imagination is a wonderful thing and these little herb-mixture pieces of pottery with the quaint labels are pretty enough at £1.35 (40p postage).

Romantic wrapping paper is from 10p per sheet and there are 15 different designs so you can make even the cheapest gift extra romantic. Loving cards cost more and are intended to be funny rather than sentimental. I prefer tiny little love notes—these are a heart-shaped strawberry on the cover—these are from 15p to 40p and one of the nicest thoughts for the day.

A range of red canisters, cake tins, trays, biscuit boxes and suchlike are almost everywhere, and would dress up a kitchen for the coming summer. They are in brilliant red, covered with white hearts in varying sizes and they are made by Azlon, which does not sell direct but which seems to have had a tremendous reception for this range because I see it almost everywhere (plenty of stock at Peter Knight of Escher and Beaconsfield and at Heals for postal services but almost certainly in your area). Prices are low—95p for the round tray on which to take tea up to bed in the morning (whoever does it for the rest of the year should lie in and leave it to the other partner on this day). Postage is anything from 40p to 60p, and it is worth having a local look round.

At Liberty of Regent Street, the saint gets his dues, very much so in china. Little kidded china containers, heart-shaped, are "fired" with patterned bowls set into the china glaze and a crystal heart from Derrington is in a white box with cyclamen-coloured heart for £1.25 (a paperweight in fact).

I liked the large Tiger Eye heart at Liberty (£20 and you still need a chain) as well as the smaller, almost transparent rose quartz at about £7.50—rose chain—pendants like these would be all-year jewelry.

At Eccetera shops I did find something that you could give to men, so far rather left out unless they like pendants and paperweight as well as heart-shaped meals and candles. The flashing heart, is plastic, quite large and strung on plain brown cord. Switch on and it lights up then, within seconds, starts flashing on and off to look like a throbbing heart. Great fun to hang in the bedroom (and a good nightlight for children, by the way), this flasher will raise laughter and will also please, but do remember to give spare batteries with it. Already battered, it costs £2.95 plus 15p.

Also from Eccetera is a medal of honour for life's little everyday battles, a ribbon-like pin from which hangs the heart. Packed in a container it gives space for the "Awarded to" and the "Presented by" besides the message including the phrase that this is for life's everyday hero. It costs £4.50 (plus 25p).

The "Love is..." mugs are also muching as well as useful and what can you lose at £1.25? Postage is 50p since it is china but you will almost certainly find a local vendor, I am told, by the way, that girls like to wear flashing hearts around their waists so this must be unisex as a gift. Shop names and addresses are at the foot of the page.

Design a piece of jewelry personally and exclusively for her or for him—now that men are beginning to wear their watches at their waists it might be nice to give hearts for the chains. Mappin and Webb's Sue Barfield, an in-house designer, will discuss your wants for him or for her and produce a thoroughly individual love-token, as romantic as you like but not necessarily expensive. A little knot of filigree hearts, perhaps highlighted with a minute diamond, earrings, neckties, anything could make the gift and the day special. This service, I am afraid, applies only to the shop at 106 Regent Street, London W1 (01-734 5842) but you will find hearts and flowers at all Mappin and Webb branches and some are ready waiting for a personal inscription. Silver and enamel hearts are about £15, a silver-and-gold heart is £28 (but needs a chain) and gold is obviously much more. The special, personal jewel service takes three weeks so it must be now or never.

Christopher McGilvie

My reputation as a sentimentalist is so widely known that I can be as corny as I like about St Valentine's Day. Having always accepted as my favourite the theory that Valentine's martyrdom coincided with the pagan Roman fertility festival, so he came to personify love or desire, I am now touched by the tale of how he had, on the eve of his death, a note delivered to the daughter of his jailer signed "From your Valentine". It conjures up images of a very understanding jailer—or was it perhaps a case of unfulfilled love and longing for a beauty that he could never embrace?

One thing is sure and that is that few people preserve the tradition of anonymity—instead they make the occasion a special festival for two. More and more, February 14—for those who really need reminding—is becoming a kind of family occasion, another excuse for doing something a little different that should not cost much. Personally, whether just for the loved one or for anyone who happens to be entertained on or near the day, whether child or adult, I always seem to give pleasure with heart-shaped meals.

Hot or cold dishes can be shaped with the patry and baking tins sold by Divertimenti and Elizabeth David. The heart cake-tin is an obvious one (£2.72 plus 35p postage from Divertimenti) and a few coppers more from Elizabeth David. Decorate the heart with flowers and make it thoroughly romantic, even cutting heart doyleys to add flair.

A hearty flan tin could appear at any meal but makes a nice breakfast dish when done with eggs and bacon or à la quiche Lorraine. From Divertimenti at 60p (postage 25p) it would also lend itself to a sweetly, sticky, much-decorated confection for candlelight dinners. The pastry or biscuit cutters are natural and would be as much fun for school home-comers as for loving couples—a set of five from Elizabeth David is £1.08 plus 35p. Personal shoppers can buy a heart-shaped earthenware dish from Elizabeth David for £3.97 which is a rather unusual and probably welcome all-year-round gift, thus being worth the price, but I am afraid it cannot be posted. The deep and heavier cake tin comes from the same category. Elizabeth David will post separate, small cutters for 20p (but add as much again for postage, alas). At Divertimenti you will find flan dishes in four sizes from 51p to 74p for the smaller, more intimate sizes, so do call or telephone if you live outside London.

Obviously, your nearest cookware shop is likely to have the pieces mentioned here, so saving the postage, but they may not all have the lovely, lustrous, white china coeur de crème dish from Divertimenti at £1.62 (25p). I think I once wrote that my love's favourite meal is bangers and mash with swede and I found that mashed swede, well mixed with the carrot and onion with which I cook it, looks very good when served as a heart (use the patry cutters). You can arrange the sausages around the mashed potato heart if he will eat three and he always does, if not more.

Centre the table with a slightly-cloudy flower vase, heart-shaped and enchanting when packed with short-stemmed blossoms that make a cushion of the shape

—top left in the drawing of hearts in all things and costing £3.40 for personal shoppers at Cucina but also available in many gift shops and department stores. Also from Cucina are the tiny candles in this, red or orange but best in red, although some romantics might like the little green tins with posty decoration (respectively 57p and 62p plus 10p each by post from Cucina). These pretty little tins are also widely stocked—Paperchase, Peter Knight, and almost every little gift or posters and cards shops I pass or enter, all at roughly similar prices.

The sachets with hanging loops are in old-fashioned, cottage fabrics and filled with pot-pourri—find them at Jacksons of Piccadilly and branches (60p plus 15p) as well as at the maker's little shop, Meadow Herbs. A large lace-edged sachet is £1.50, medium sizes are 90p and small ones are 70p (postage on all is 15p per item).

Crabtree and Evelyn is still doing that fragrant hardy perennial, the glycerine love soap in an almost translucent red, impregnated with rose scents and packed in the lace-printed box with the pair of doves on it—the side of the box carries the message "more than yesterday, less than tomorrow" in English with the French translation on the other. At 95p per tablet or £2.85 for a pretty box of three, it is a lovely soap to use and is at most Crabtree and Evelyn stockists.

In the centre of the drawing is a bone china heart holding nine small Laura Secord chocolates, the flower-patterned lid being on the left of the pack (£6.95 plus 90p but there is an empty china one for £3.50). Both are from Jacksons, as are other china hearts, but you will find them almost anywhere, tucked away in china departments in all too rarely displayed as a Valentine's special. Buy your own heart and fill with her favourite sweets. Larger hearts look well with Jordan almonds and smaller ones with Smarties.

On the right are pretty handkerchiefs in white or dark blue, bordered with green and touched with red hearts—two to a box from Heals for £3.25. There are also little open dishes, which can be anything from ashtrays to bombonnières, in most china shops and departments (not illustrated here). Aynsley specialized in heart china and they decorate them prettily with birds and flowers so, if not in a gift department, look for the Aynsley shelves of ordinary flat china. Candle-making enthusiasts can make their own candles, using the cookware tins, but be careful to use a fairly thin wick or the whole thing will smoke and burn. Cut out card or paper hearts and arrange them on the dinner table, preferably against a pale or white background. Think of original ideas—as a dinner starter try boiling eggs until only just hard enough to peel, then mash the egg-flesh with herbs and finely chopped pimento and onion to serve as a speckled heart on a bed of salad with tomato or pimento because red means hearts.

Stretch the day a little to cover all kinds of love including family love, then go for the intimacy after they are in bed. I am all for excuses to be sentimental, which is why I am being practical enough to allow time for mail ordering so that, when the day dawns, all is peacefully ready. Shop names and addresses can be found at the foot of this page.

Divertimenti, 68 Marylebone Road, London W1.
Elizabeth David, 46 Bourne Street, SW1.
Cucina, 4 Ledbrooke Grove, London W11 or 8 England Lane, London NW3.
Meadow Herbs, 47 Moreton Street, SW1.
Liberty, Regent Street, London W1.
Jacksons, 142 Piccadilly, London W1 or 6a Sloane Street, London SW1.

Heals, 196 Tottenham Court Road, London W1.
Peter Knight, High Street, Escher, Surrey or London End, Beaconsfield, Berks.
Azlon, Glyn Street, London SE11.
Eccetera, 47 Golders Green Road, London NW11.
Crabtree and Evelyn, 38 Savile Row, London W1.

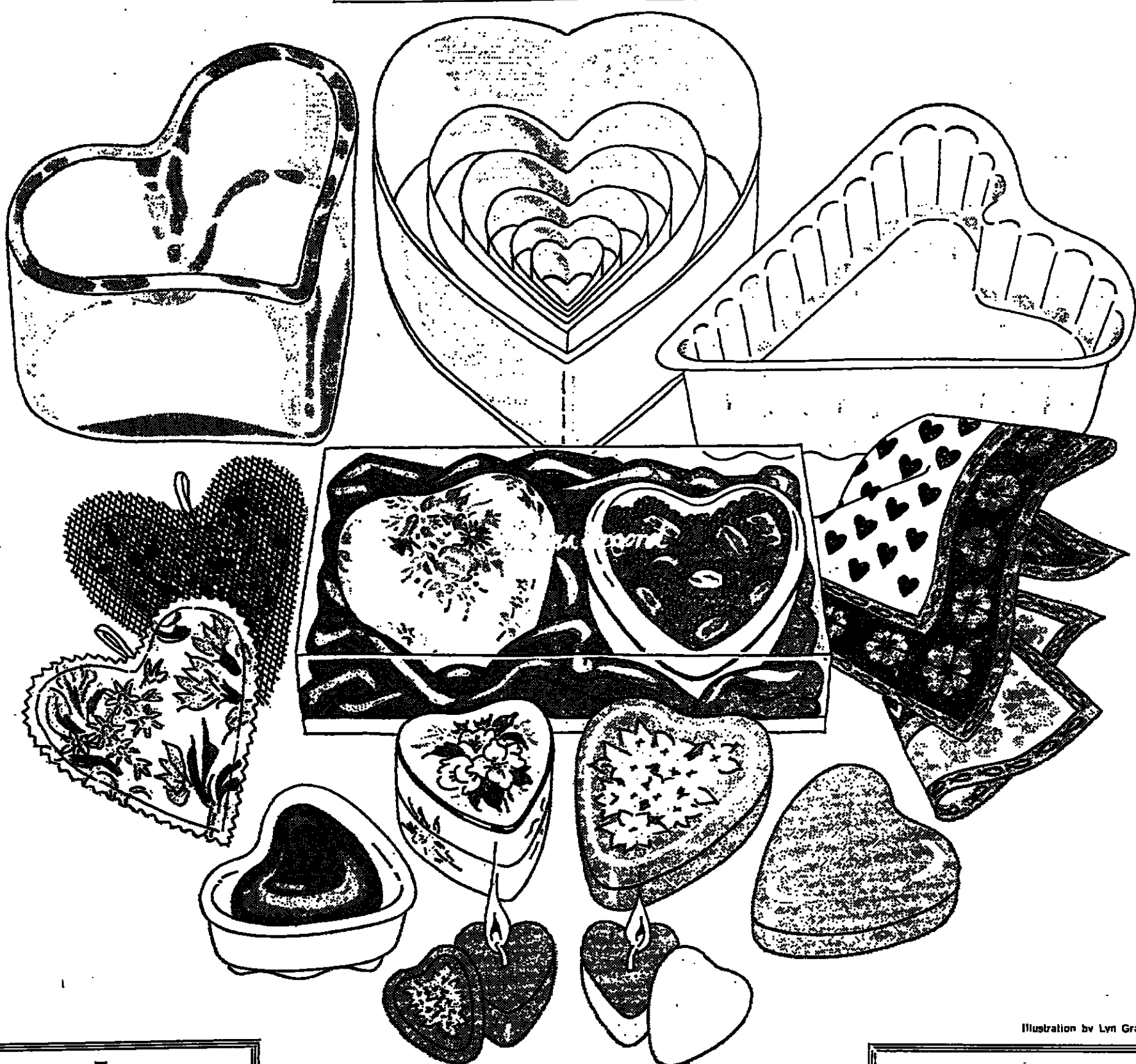


Illustration by Lyn Gray



Photograph by Trevor S

Deant Glass has found a demand for St Valentine's glasses in the past without ever promoting the idea, so they decided to do something special about it for 1978 and asked me to help with the design. I feel glass should either be as simple as possible or ornately and expensively engraved, so I suggested the initials shot by Cupid's arrow plus the date and we all liked it besides liking the way it helped to hold down extra costs. I hope you do, since this excellent engraved glass is far from cheap but it is something of a family treasure, almost an heirloom. If you like the idea, it may be repeated next year so you can go for the set. The goblet shape here is Rawthey, standing about 5 1/2 inches tall and holding six ounces, a handsome goblet with a stem that is nice to hold and to play with. It costs £13 which includes two

initials and the arrow. The tumble sturdy squat thing about 3 1/2 inches and holding ten ounces, is called Dees is £11.75. The hand-engraving takes weeks but, if you order right away, should be sure of delivery by Feb 14.

While you are ordering, ask for leaflet of other goblets and a tank some in modern shapes and some far more ornate engravings including Zodiac signs. You can have these engraved for special dates and occasions like weddings, christenings and anniversaries or even as retirement gifts. D Glass are based in lovely country off M6 and welcome callers, but do ph first to make sure of opening times address is Rishill Mill, Dent, Soder Cumbria (Dent 323). VAT, postage packing are included in the price.

Wedgwood jewelry is a tre

vogue overseas and finds much in Britain, partly for the name b for the charm, delicacy and sly woodiness of the Jasper with i colours and relief figures, lat hand before the firing that fix and so redolent of the days whe wood introduced Jasper to an incredulous world of china-lover Wedgwood hearts have added o Cupid, rejecting the tradition archer and showing rather more ing figures—one of Cupid restri bow, as in our photograph, and of him sharpening the arrow.

Find them at Wedgwood, sto basic green or blue with white fi rather more unusual, in black wi cotta figures. On gold-plated cha are reasonably priced at £5.95 smaller and £7.50 for the large In London at Gered of Regent St Piccadilly as well as at Wedgwood Circus but nationwide at mos Wedgwood jewelry stockists. Inq Wedgwood's London office (01-48

The newly-opened Grays Antio ket in a lovely Mayfair House worth a visit for lovers of antio from about February 7, it will be ing, especially to lovers of all the exhibitors begin to display h of hearts in the form of boxes, b rings, pendants, and even picture The romance goes on until Febr so Londoners can browse togeth to search for a surprise for absen ones. The address is 58 Davies London W1 and the telephone 01-629 7034. There are already few Hearts for early shoppers there.

Flowers are obviously welc close to your love, make it a p opsy or bouquet. If apart, send a via the company of that name at Leigh, Ipswich (Bldston 74078) phone to charge it to your credit send a cheque with your love-car orchid costs £4 including VAT, sa sage and the little-sealed, water-fil that holds the stem (£5 overseas) There is a 24-hour answering Order forms and leaflets are av

As the MC always says, the r needs no introduction. I feel that said enough about Bilston and B ename, and I know that readers them and collect them, so I will more than show here the current Valentine Box with red hearts or ground and a decorative trim message "From one who loves Just under 1 1/2 inches diameter, £14.50 and production ceases on F 28.

The 1978 box is really charm cornucopia of flowers tied with b a white ground, with "A year to ber" inscribed in the lid. Everyo their years to remember and thi 2 1/2-inch box can add to memories and production stops at the yea Mother's Day is not far off (Ma and her special box is a kind of of flowers pattern, gold-trimmed ar over 1 1/2 inches in diameter—the p £14.80 and the production ends on N

All, plus the Easter egg for this from Halcyon Days, 14 Brook London W1. Colour leaflets are av

صكتة من الاصل

HOME & GARDEN



There really is no comparison in top quality at lowest prices

King selection of leather upholstery and design 3 piece suites and dining room furniture

A Special Message to all Repro-Lovers!

Slaughter in Edmonton

I now have the biggest collection of Reproduction Furniture assembled under one roof. I will sell at prices that will deliberately undercut any of my competitors. So before you buy come and talk to me for a deal unobtainable elsewhere.

Yours sincerely, *Paul Towner*

Regret we do not issue catalogues.

22 different styles of chairs

OPEN DAILY 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 01-807 3132 SUNDAY 10 a.m.-2 p.m. 62 FORE ST., EDMONTON, N.15 Closed all day Thursday Trade Enquiries Welcomed

C.P. HART LONDON

SAVE MONEY ON KITCHENS & BATHROOMS

COME ALONG AND SEE OUR EXTENSIVE RANGE, ONE OF THE LARGEST DISPLAYS IN LONDON. COMPARE OUR PRICES. KITCHEN & BATHROOM FURNITURE

AND ALL LEADING MAKES OF BATHROOM EQUIPMENT ENGLISH & CONTINENTAL

C. P. HART & SONS LTD.

Leamington Terrace, Hercules Road, S.E.1 Telephone: 01-928 5555 (4 lines)

Only 400 yards from Big Ben

Elegant Period Style Furniture...

Direct from the manufacturers

Compare Our Prices and Quality with the major stores before you purchase.

As Manufacturers of Quality Reproduction furniture for many years we are confident we are unbeatable for price and value.

Come and view our enormous range - which we export all over the world at

North London Reproduction Furniture,

7-95 Hertford Road, London, N.1. Tel: 01-249 2161

Open Sunday 10am-2pm

Mon-Thurs 9am-6pm

Fri-Sat 9am-6pm

Ample Parking Space.

ELECTRIC SHOWER POWER

WITH OUR NEW INSTANT ELECTRIC SHOWERS

9 showers for the cost of a bath. Use electricity and water only when showering. Operates at 100° F.

TYPE A. Complete with chrome tap, coupling, chrome hose, bracket, hand and shower unit. £18.75 inc. VAT, carriage and insurance.

OR TYPE B. as type A, but includes a height adjustable rail in place of the bracket. Ideal for families. £24.00 inc. VAT, carriage and insurance.

Size 10in x 5in x 3in

OR send for our price list of 6kW electric showers and accessories. Send cheque with order. Where Access/Barclays send C.O.D. (extra £5.01). Money back if not satisfied. Personal call if preferred.

A. C. TITCHEN (Home Improvements) Ltd.

152 Church Rd, Redditch, St. George, 9.90am-5.00pm. Tel: 0583 556412

100% WATERPROOF MATTRESS COVERS

PERFECT FIT. GUARANTEED. 100% WATERPROOF. 100% COTTON. 100% QUALITY. 100% LOWEST PRICES.

£1.55 £1.75 £2.55 £2.75

ADD 40p P&P. Two or more POST FREE.

Every mattress needs one! Protects and preserves your mattress. Keeps it clean, dry, fresh, and free from dust, dirt, and allergens. Essential for those confined to bed, hospitalised, and the elderly.

14 day return. Please quote item 14. 24 hr. delivery. Please quote item 24.

WILKINSON LTD.

55-59 St. James Street, London, W.1. Tel: 01-479 2414

Callers welcome Mon-Fri 9-4

GARDENING

ENCING SIMPLE!

on you use STOUT ST. SUPPORTS

not poles in bushes digging or trenching old fencing! - brochure and slides sent free.

Stout Ltd., Dept. T1, Avenue Rd., Maidenhead, Berks. Tel. 0628 20295.

WELSH BLUE SLATES

Good quality, delivered all over U.K. mainland. Payment on delivery.

J. WALSH AND SONS

477B Liverpool Rd., Pool Green, Ecclehurst, Manchester. 061 789 8223

CHEAP FUEL?

Produce your own fuel effortlessly with a

Sherwood Logsplitter

Produced by the world's largest manufacturer of log splitters. Great value for money. Price £199.00. Delivered and installed. Many different sizes available. Price from £199.00. VAT. Write or phone for free details. OLCODE LIMITED (East Anglian Trading Company) OPE Department, Chatterton Road, Norwich NR5 9PB. Tel: 0603 24104

ASPIDISTRAS

Approx. 39in. — £6.25 from

Longmans PLANT HOUSE

4 Henrietta St., Covent Garden, London, W.C.2. 01-623 8414, ext. 36

Over 100 other home plant varieties in stock. Open all day today, and late on Thursdays.

Rubber Couture

LATEX RUBBER REINA RUBBER RUBBERISED SATIN

For a complete range of fabulous LEISURE PLEASURE and FASHION WEAR. For full details send 50p (deducted first order) to

SALISBURY

Salisbury (Central Ltd.) Salisbury Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire. B91 1WY

CALLERS WELCOME

Sterling Silver Bottle Stoppers

Beautifully worked in traditional vine-leaf design. Fully hallmarked. Weight: Over 1oz. each.

Silver: £14 each. 20ct. gold-plated silver: £19 each.

C.W.D. Prices include p. & p.

From PRANDALL, SOUTHSIDE, KILHAM, DRIFFIELD, N. HUMBERSIDE. Tel.: KILHAM (028 282) 887.

HART OF KNIGHTSBRIDGE

BROCHURE

3 BEAUCHAMP PLACE, SW3

01-584 5770

OUR 64 PAGE FULLY ILLUSTRATED SPRING CATALOGUE

Containing a wide range of hardy perennial plants, Gladioli, Dahlias, Begonias, and other bulbs such as Anemones, Aconites, Pinks, Violets, etc. now available. Just send a note of your name and address and a 9p stamp for your copy.

WALLACE & BARR (N),

(Established since 1870) MARDEN, KENT.

POOL, SNOOKER & BILLIARDS TABLES

Direct Sales. New and Secondhand. Immediate Delivery. Recovery Service. Anywhere.

TRENT VALLEY LEISURE

34-36 LINCOLN STREET OLD BASFORD NOTTINGHAM

Tel. 0602 702377 after 5 p.m.

GUERNSEY SWEATERS

Guernsey style sweaters. 100% pure wool. Hand knitted. Guaranteed to last. 14 day return. Please quote item 14. 24 hr. delivery. Please quote item 24.

12" X 5" £12.50

34" X 5" £14.00

38" X 5" £14.50

40" X 5" £15.00

42" X 5" £15.50

44" X 5" £16.00

46" X 5" £16.50

48" X 5" £17.00

50" X 5" £17.50

52" X 5" £18.00

54" X 5" £18.50

56" X 5" £19.00

58" X 5" £19.50

60" X 5" £20.00

62" X 5" £20.50

64" X 5" £21.00

66" X 5" £21.50

68" X 5" £22.00

70" X 5" £22.50

72" X 5" £23.00

74" X 5" £23.50

76" X 5" £24.00

78" X 5" £24.50

80" X 5" £25.00

82" X 5" £25.50

84" X 5" £26.00

86" X 5" £26.50

88" X 5" £27.00

90" X 5" £27.50

92" X 5" £28.00

94" X 5" £28.50

96" X 5" £29.00

98" X 5" £29.50

100" X 5" £30.00

102" X 5" £30.50

104" X 5" £31.00

106" X 5" £31.50

108" X 5" £32.00

110" X 5" £32.50

112" X 5" £33.00

114" X 5" £33.50

116" X 5" £34.00

118" X 5" £34.50

120" X 5" £35.00

122" X 5" £35.50

124" X 5" £36.00

126" X 5" £36.50

128" X 5" £37.00

130" X 5" £37.50

132" X 5" £38.00

134" X 5" £38.50

136" X 5" £39.00

138" X 5" £39.50

140" X 5" £40.00

142" X 5" £40.50

144" X 5" £41.00

146" X 5" £41.50

148" X 5" £42.00

150" X 5" £42.50

152" X 5" £43.00

154" X 5" £43.50

156" X 5" £44.00

158" X 5" £44.50

160" X 5" £45.00

162" X 5" £45.50

164" X 5" £46.00

166" X 5" £46.50

168" X 5" £47.00

170" X 5" £47.50

172" X 5" £48.00

174" X 5" £48.50

176" X 5" £49.00

178" X 5" £49.50

180" X 5" £50.00

182" X 5" £50.50

184" X 5" £51.00

186" X 5" £51.50

188" X 5" £52.00

190" X 5" £52.50

192" X 5" £53.00

194" X 5" £53.50

196" X 5" £54.00

198" X 5" £54.50

200" X 5" £55.00

202" X 5" £55.50

204" X 5" £56.00

206" X 5" £56.50

208" X 5" £57.00

210" X 5" £57.50

212" X 5" £58.00

214" X 5" £58.50

216" X 5" £59.00

218" X 5" £59.50

220" X 5" £60.00

222" X 5" £60.50

224" X 5" £61.00

226" X 5" £61.50

228" X 5" £62.00

230" X 5" £62.50

232" X 5" £63.00

234" X 5" £63.50

236" X 5" £64.00

238" X 5" £64.50

240" X 5" £65.00

242" X 5" £65.50

244" X 5" £66.00

246" X 5" £66.50

248" X 5" £67.00

250" X 5" £67.50

252" X 5" £68.00

254" X 5" £68.50

256" X 5" £69.00

258" X 5" £69.50

260" X 5" £70.00

262" X 5" £70.50

264" X 5" £71.00

266" X 5" £71.50

268" X 5" £72.00

270" X 5" £72.50

272" X 5" £73.00

274" X 5" £73.50

276" X 5" £74.00

278" X 5" £74.50

280" X 5" £75.00

282" X 5" £75.50

284" X 5" £76.00

286" X 5" £76.50

288" X 5" £77.00

290" X 5" £77.50

292" X 5" £78.00

294" X 5" £78.50

296" X 5" £79.00

298" X 5" £79.50

300" X 5" £80.00

302" X 5" £80.50

304" X 5" £81.00

306" X 5" £81.50

308" X 5" £82.00

310" X 5" £82.50

312" X 5" £83.00

314" X 5" £83.50

316" X 5" £84.00

318" X 5" £84.50

320" X 5" £85.00

322" X 5" £85.50

324" X 5" £86.00

326" X 5" £86.50

328" X 5" £87.00

330" X 5" £87.50

332" X 5" £88.00

334" X 5" £88.50

336" X 5" £89.00

338" X 5" £89.50

340" X 5" £90.00

342" X 5" £90.50

344" X 5" £91.00

346" X 5" £91.50

348" X 5" £92.00

350" X 5" £92.50

352" X 5" £93.00

354" X 5" £93.50

356" X 5" £94.00

358" X 5" £94.50

360" X 5" £95.00

362" X 5" £95.50

364" X 5" £96.00

366" X 5" £96.50

368" X 5" £97.00

370" X 5" £97.50

372" X 5" £98.00

374" X 5" £98.50

376" X 5" £99.00

378" X 5" £99.50

380" X 5" £100.00

382" X 5" £100.50

384" X 5" £101.00

386" X 5" £101.50

388" X 5" £102.00

390" X 5" £102.50

392" X 5" £103.00

394" X 5" £103.50

396" X 5" £104.00

398" X 5" £104.50

400" X 5" £105.00

402" X 5" £105.50

404" X 5" £106.00

406" X 5" £106.50

408" X 5" £107.00

410" X 5" £107.50

412" X 5" £108.00

414" X 5" £108.50

416" X 5" £109.00

418" X 5" £109.50

420" X 5" £110.00

422" X 5" £110.50

424" X 5" £111.00

426" X 5" £111.50

428" X 5" £112.00

430" X 5" £112.50

432" X 5" £113.00

434" X 5" £113.50

436" X 5" £114.00

438" X 5" £114.50

440" X 5" £115.00

442" X 5" £115.50

444" X 5" £116.00

446" X 5" £116.50

448" X 5" £117.00

450" X 5" £117.50

452" X 5" £118.00

454" X 5" £118.50

456" X 5" £119.00

458" X 5" £119.50

460" X 5" £120.00

462" X 5" £120.50

464" X 5" £121.00

466" X 5" £121.50

468" X 5" £122.00

470" X 5" £122.50

472" X 5" £123.00

474" X 5" £123.50

476" X 5" £124.00

478" X 5" £124.50

480" X 5" £125.00

482" X 5" £125.50

484" X 5" £126.00

486" X 5" £126.50

488" X 5" £127.00

490" X 5" £127.50

492" X 5" £128.00

494" X 5" £128.50

496" X 5" £129.00

498" X 5" £129.50

500" X 5" £130.00

502" X 5" £130.50

504" X 5" £131.00

506" X 5" £131.50

508" X 5" £132.00

510" X 5" £132.50

512" X 5" £133.00

514" X 5" £133.50

516" X 5" £134.00

518" X 5" £134.50

520" X 5" £135.00

522" X 5" £135.50

524" X 5" £136.00

526" X 5" £136.50

528" X 5" £137.00

530" X 5" £137.50

532" X 5" £138.00

534" X 5" £138.50

536" X 5" £139.00

538" X 5" £139.50

540" X 5" £140.00

542" X 5" £140.50

544" X 5" £141.00

546" X 5" £141.50

548" X 5" £142.00

550" X 5" £142.50

552" X 5" £143.00

554" X 5" £143.50

556" X 5" £144.00

558" X 5" £144.50

560" X 5" £145.00

562" X 5" £145.50

564" X 5" £146.00

566" X 5" £146.50

568" X 5" £147.00

570" X 5" £147.50

572" X 5" £148.00

574" X 5" £148.50

576" X 5" £149.00

578" X 5" £149.50

580" X 5" £150.00

582" X 5" £150.50

584" X 5" £151.00

586" X 5" £151.50

588" X 5" £152.00

590" X 5" £152.50

592" X 5" £153.00

594" X 5" £153.50

596" X 5" £154.00

598" X 5" £154.50

600" X 5" £155.00

602" X 5" £155.50

604" X 5" £156.00

606" X 5" £156.50

608" X 5" £157.00

610" X 5" £157.50

612" X 5" £158.00

614" X 5" £158.50

616" X 5" £159.00

618" X 5" £159.50

620" X 5" £160.00

622" X 5" £160.50

624" X 5" £161.00

626" X 5" £161.50

628" X 5" £162.00

630" X 5" £162.50

632" X 5" £163.00

634" X 5" £163.50

636" X 5" £164.00

638" X 5" £164.50

640" X 5" £165.00

642" X 5" £165.50

644" X 5" £166.00

646" X 5" £166.50

648" X 5" £167.00

650" X 5" £167.50

652" X 5" £168.00

654" X 5" £168.50

656" X 5" £169.00

658" X 5" £169.50

660" X 5" £170.00

662" X 5" £170.50

664" X 5" £171.00

666" X 5" £171.50

668" X 5" £172.00

670" X 5" £172.50

672" X 5" £173.00

674" X 5" £173.50

676" X 5" £174.00

678" X 5" £174.50

680" X 5" £175.00

682" X 5" £175.50

684" X 5" £176.00

686" X 5" £176.50

688" X 5" £177.00

690" X 5" £177.50

692" X 5" £178.00

694" X 5" £178.50

696" X 5" £179.00

698" X 5" £179.50

700" X 5" £180.00

702" X 5" £180.50

704" X 5" £181.00

706" X 5" £181.50

708" X 5" £182.00

710" X 5" £182.50

712" X 5" £183.00

714" X 5" £183.50

716" X 5" £184.00

718" X 5" £184.50

720" X 5" £185.00

722" X 5" £185.50

724" X 5" £186.00

726" X 5" £186.50

728" X 5" £187.00

730" X 5" £187.50

732" X 5" £188.00

734" X 5" £188.50

736" X 5" £189.00

738" X 5" £189.50

740" X 5" £190.00

742" X 5" £190.50

744" X 5" £191.00

746" X 5" £191.50

748" X 5" £192.00

750" X 5" £192.50

752" X 5" £193.00

754" X 5" £193.50

756" X 5" £194.00

758" X 5" £194.50

760" X 5" £195.00

762" X 5" £195.50

764" X 5" £196.00

766" X 5" £196.50

768" X 5" £197.00

770" X 5" £197.50

772" X 5" £198.00

774" X 5" £198.50

776" X 5" £199.00

778" X 5" £199.50

780" X 5" £200.00

782" X 5" £200.50

784" X 5" £201.00

786" X 5" £201.50

788" X 5" £202.00

790" X 5" £202.50

792" X 5" £203.00

794" X 5" £203.50

796" X 5" £204.00

798" X 5" £204.50

800" X 5" £205.00

802" X 5" £205.50

804" X 5" £206.00

806" X 5" £206.50

808" X 5" £207.00

810" X 5" £207.50

812" X 5" £208.00

814" X 5" £208.50

816" X 5" £209.00

818" X 5" £209.50

820" X 5" £210.00

822" X 5" £210.50

824" X 5" £211.00

826" X 5" £211.50

828" X 5" £212.00

830" X 5" £212.50

832" X 5" £213.00

834" X 5" £213.50

836" X 5" £214.00

838" X 5" £214.50

840" X 5" £215.00

842" X 5" £215.50

844" X 5" £216.00

846" X 5" £216.50

848" X 5" £217.00

850" X 5" £217.50

852" X 5" £218.00

854" X 5" £218.50

856" X 5" £219.00

858" X 5" £219.50

860" X 5" £220.00

862" X 5" £220.50

864" X 5" £221.00

866" X 5" £221.50

868" X 5" £222.00

870" X 5" £222.50

872" X 5" £223.00

874" X 5" £223.50

876" X 5" £224.00

878" X 5" £224.50

880" X 5" £225.00

882" X 5" £225.50

884" X 5" £226.00

886" X 5" £226.50

888" X 5" £227.00

890" X 5" £227.50

892" X 5" £228.00

894" X 5" £228.50

896" X 5" £229.00

898" X 5" £229.50

900" X 5" £230.00

902" X 5" £230.50

904" X 5" £231.00

906" X 5" £231.50

908" X 5" £232.00

910" X 5" £232.50

912" X 5" £233.00

914" X 5" £233.50

916" X 5" £234.00

918" X 5" £234.50

920" X 5" £235.00

922" X 5" £235.50

924" X 5" £236.00

926" X 5" £236.50

928" X 5" £237.00

930" X 5" £237.50

932" X 5" £238.00

934" X 5" £238.50

936" X 5" £239.00

938" X 5" £239.50

940" X 5" £240.00

942" X 5" £240.50

944" X 5" £241.00

946" X 5" £241.50

948" X 5" £242.00

950" X 5" £242.50

952" X 5" £243.00

954" X 5" £243.50

956" X 5" £244.00

958" X 5" £244.50

960" X 5" £245.00

962" X 5" £245.50

964" X 5" £246.00

966" X 5" £246.50

968" X 5" £247.00

970" X 5" £247.50

972" X 5" £248.00

974" X 5" £248.50

976" X 5" £249.00

978" X 5" £249.50

980" X 5" £250.00

982" X 5" £250.50

984" X 5" £251.00

986" X 5" £251.50

988" X 5" £252.00

990" X 5" £252.50

992" X 5" £253.00

994" X 5" £253

